



Daily Report

Soviet Union

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21 October 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Gorbachev, Bush 'May Meet' for Dialogue

OW1810173391 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1634 GMT 18 Oct 91

[From "Diplomatic Panorama;" following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush may meet even before October is out to begin a dialogue on nuclear disarmament to follow through on their recent initiatives. Judging by the statement of the Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, Moscow plans to suggest participation of the two presidents in the inauguration ceremony of the Middle East conference (its venue has yet to be determined).

Moscow believes that the presence of the Soviet and the US leader, who are the conference's co-initiators, at the conference would provide an incentive for successful work, and on the other hand, would make it possible to start discussing the latest ideas on nuclear disarmament at the highest level.

Judging from the original reaction of the White House, the US Administration no longer intends to stay away from a summit because a summit is supposed to be preceded by bilateral consultations on tactical and strategic armaments. Things may work out so that Gorbachev and Bush will map out the basic aspects and lines of their initiatives, and following that, experts of foreign departments and defense ministers will start work.

DP [Diplomatic Panorama] learned from the USSR Foreign Ministry's department for the problems of the restriction of armaments and disarmament, such consultations may begin in Moscow, Washington or Geneva in November. The Soviet delegation will be led by the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Obukhov.

The USSR Foreign Ministry believes that corresponding consultations with the European nuclear powers would be desirable. A delegation of French experts is arriving in Moscow on October 21, reports the USSR Foreign Ministry. The talks are expected to cover prospects for Paris' participation in the Soviet-US consultations on nuclear disarmament or for autonomous Soviet-French consultations on this range of issues.

It would be in the interests of the USSR to involve China in this process, intimated the expert circles of the USSR Foreign Ministry. However, Beijing has not yet given any signals to indicate its willingness to sit down at the negotiating table.

Expert Says No 'Blessing' for SDI Deployment

LD1810195591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1252 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—The U.S. leadership is not abandoning its hope to "smuggle by the back

door" the Strategic Defense Initiative Programme by interpreting to its own advantage the new Soviet arms control initiatives, Vladimir Lyashchenko, a USSR Defense Ministry expert and candidate of military sciences, believes.

As already reported, a statement has been circulated in Washington by the U.S. President's press secretary which says that "the United States is currently ready to discuss restrictions on the scale and timing of the deployment" of the SDI systems. [passage omitted]

"This statement is based on the desire of the United States to interpret to its own advantage some of Soviet proposals put forward by Gorbachev in his 'October reply' to Bush's 'September initiative,'" V. Lyashchenko said in an interview with the TASS correspondent. "The statement by the USSR president on Soviet television pointed out that the USSR is 'prepared to discuss the U.S. proposal on nonnuclear systems for antimissile defence.' It also proposed that the United States consider the possibility of creating joint systems with ground- and space-based elements for warning the other side about a nuclear missile strike. You would agree that one would have to have a very great desire to discern in those utterances by the Soviet side a 'blessing' for SDI," the expert said. "What is in evidence, I believe, is a willful and arbitrary attempt to convert wishful thinking into reality."

Article Views U.S. Opposition to Test Ban

PM1810132191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 18 Oct 91 p 3

[Article by Major General V. Belous, candidate of technical sciences: "Forging a New Sword. Why the United States Is Rejecting a Ban on Nuclear Weapon Tests"]

[Text] In his recent statement on Soviet television M.S. Gorbachev announced measures in response to U.S. President G. Bush's recent initiative on nuclear weapons and disclosed in part that we are introducing a one-year unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. The hope was expressed that our example would be followed by the other nuclear powers and that the way would be opened for the speediest total cessation of nuclear tests.

This important step again drew mankind's attention to this problem, which is becoming increasingly urgent. This is natural. After all, the tremendous destructive power of nuclear weapons, against which there is practically no defense, is bound to cause legitimate concern among hundreds of millions of people throughout the world.

In the past top politicians and military figures in the two countries were often guided by a simple rule: It is greatly preferable to have 1,000 surplus bombs than to be short of one.

The lowering of the level of military confrontation, the improvement of USSR-U.S. relations, and the continuation of an active disarmament process create favorable opportunities for reaching an understanding on the total cessation of nuclear tests.

At the same time many military specialists and political scientists express fears that a nuclear-free world may be far more dangerous than the nuclear world. A particular danger in this regard is posed by the secret production of nuclear charges in certain "threshold" states and the widespread proliferation of nuclear technology.

In conditions where leading countries have huge arsenals of nuclear weapons the underground production of a few dozen nuclear charges by some authoritarian regime will not rock international strategic stability. A completely different situation may arise as a result of the sudden appearance of such warheads in a nuclear-free world. This will create for the potential aggressor decisive military superiority which he would not fail to exploit. So nuclear disarmament must take place simultaneously with the process of creating a reliable international system of collective security and the transition to a lasting nonviolent world.

Of course, it would be unfair to pin the entire responsibility for the nuclear arms race on the U.S. side alone. In its endeavor to eliminate one-sided U.S. advantages, the Soviet leadership often acted according to the "mirror reflection" principle in seeking at all costs to restore the status quo. Real military needs and the potential of the country's economy were not always taken into account. This spurred on the arms race. Talks on creating a reliable system of monitoring [kontrol] nuclear tests, which the Western powers put forward as one of the main conditions, proceeded with difficulty. The Western powers continued the arms race while accusing the Soviet Union of every possible sin. However, despite considerable disagreements, the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water was elaborated in the USSR and signed in 1963 thanks to persistent efforts.

Most regrettably, in the last almost 30 years it has been possible to achieve only very modest results in the sphere of further prohibiting nuclear tests. The Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests, which imposes restrictions on their yield (150 kilotons), was signed between the USSR and the United States in July 1974. This treaty was ratified only in 1990, although both sides had adhered strictly to the restrictions.

The Soviet Union repeatedly declared that it was ready at any time to totally cease all nuclear explosions, including those for peaceful purposes, under strict international verification, up to and including mutual on-site inspection. Reaffirming this determination, in summer of 1985 the Soviet side announced a moratorium on nuclear tests. This lasted 18 months (in which time the United States carried out 26 explosions). Between October 1989 and

September 1991 the USSR carried out just one nuclear test (the United States carried out about 15).

Displaying flexibility on ending tests, the Soviet leadership does not put forward categorical "all or nothing" demands. The USSR is prepared to gradually limit the number and yield of nuclear explosions.

Addressing the USSR Supreme Soviet session in August 1991 Defense Minister Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov stated that nuclear tests will no longer be held at the Semipalatinsk test site.

As the main arguments against nuclear explosions Soviet military specialists point out that above all this will make it possible to eliminate a sphere of dangerous military rivalry between the two powers in developing new types of nuclear weapons. Each explosion is an attempt to create a new model of weapon.

The confirmation of new capabilities of nuclear weapons during tests gives a powerful fillip to their development, production, and entry into service. As a result of this the country will be dragged into an expensive new round of the arms race. In response the other side will naturally make tremendous efforts to remove the resultant imbalance in military might.

The prohibition of all nuclear explosions is becoming increasingly necessary now also because the world community is on the threshold of the expiry in 1995 of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The continuation of nuclear tests certainly creates a more favorable atmosphere for the development of nuclear weapons.

In the Soviet Union both the country's leadership and the public at large are unanimous in desiring the total and definitive prohibition of nuclear tests. At present the picture in the United States is different.

As the main arguments in favor of continuing nuclear tests administration officials put forward above all the need to maintain the arsenal of nuclear weapons in a state of combat readiness for its entire period of operation. But is this so?

Responding to advocates of checking the reliability of nuclear weapons by means of explosions, A. D. Sakharov contended that explosions are unnecessary: "We can check the functioning of all systems right up to the very last moment, up to the nuclear explosion, if we replace nuclear materials with any inert substances. A nuclear explosion will take place without any deviations if we replace the inert material with plutonium or highly enriched uranium. Verification is absolutely reliable."

Supporters of nuclear tests also try to justify their continuation by the need to ensure the safety of nuclear weapons. This argument is often used quite successfully to influence U.S. public opinion. In fact, they say, almost harmless underground explosions help to eliminate the threat of an accidental nuclear explosion which could have the most unpredictable consequences. To this end reports of the

instability of certain chemical explosives that are present within nuclear warheads and heighten the threat that the warheads will be accidentally triggered during maintenance sometimes appear in the U.S. press. The replacement of these unstable components by more stable and reliable ones, so it is argued, needs to be verified via full-scale tests.

Answering these arguments, I would like to note that in the more than 40-year history of nuclear weapons they have convincingly demonstrated their safety. Despite various incidents, the tens of thousands of nuclear munitions in USSR and U.S. arsenals have never led to a release of intranuclear energy. The complex multiple safety systems of nuclear munitions, which are based on various physical principles, are a highly reliable safety instrument. And this system is being continuously improved.

Another argument against ending nuclear tests is justified by the claim that there is a need to constantly develop the most sophisticated devices to prevent the unsanctioned use of nuclear weapons.

Without ruling out the need to further improve the safety devices installed on nuclear warheads, it is necessary also to use other probably no less effective measures to prevent actions unsanctioned by the countries' top leadership involving weapons of mass destruction. In particular, these measures should include the withdrawal of all nuclear weapons from regions of military, interethnic, religious, and other conflicts and the fitting of all nuclear warheads with internal protective coding devices rendering them inoperative if seized by terrorists.

Unfortunately, we are still running up against a reluctance by the United States and Britain to consent to the prohibition of nuclear tests, which is preventing us from laying the foundation right now for extending the validity of the Nonproliferation Treaty in 1995. The 1963 treaty cannot be changed without the agreement of its three founders—the USSR, the United States, and Britain. The United States and Britain have stated that they will veto attempts to change the treaty in favor of a total ban on tests. However, with the approach of 1995 it will clearly be increasingly difficult for the leaderships of these countries to defend their position, which clearly does not meet the interests of the world community.

The negative U.S. position regarding a ban on nuclear weapon tests has just been confirmed yet again by Pentagon chief R. Cheney in a speech in Italy opposing Gorbachev's call for the universal cessation of nuclear tests.

NATO Nuclear Planners' Meet in Sicily

*PM2010134391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 18 Oct 91 First Edition p 3*

[Major M. Zhiglov commentary: "NATO Currently Has 1,400 Atom Bombs. Will There Be Fewer of Them Tomorrow?"]

[Text] The NATO Nuclear Planning Group has started work in the Sicilian city of Taormina. A seemingly

ordinary matter. Such sessions have been regularly held twice a year. And every year one could unerringly predict what such events would culminate in: statements about the need to retain and even strengthen the North Atlantic bloc's nuclear arsenals because of the persisting threat of attack from the Soviet Union.

It can be assumed that this wording will be changed in the present session's concluding communique. But not radically. At any rate, as though putting a basic outline of the wording into a draft document, prior to leaving for Italy FRG Defense Minister G. Stoltenberg stated that there is an urgent need to retain a certain nuclear weapon potential for the bloc. He linked this with the allegedly growing threat of the proliferation of mass destruction weapons. The head of the German military department is also caused concern by the vagueness of the political situation in our country, which possesses a considerable nuclear potential, and the statements of certain republics' leaders about their particular plans regarding nuclear weapons stationed on their territories. This is indirectly confirmed by the words of U.S. Secretary of Defense R. Cheney that the North Atlantic bloc continues to bank on being the first to deliver a nuclear strike against its adversary—a concept that has been the "linchpin of NATO security" for decades.

I do not think that the Soviet proposal to completely ban nuclear tests will receive support. According to the information available to us, it was also opposed by Britain, which did, however, promise to reduce the number of nuclear explosions. The United States is also taking an identical stance on this question.

It is not yet known what will be done with the 88 Lance missile launchers carrying 700 nuclear warheads as well as the 1,200-1,600 nuclear artillery shells in the NATO countries' arms inventories. Previously it was reckoned that the missiles would become "obsolete" by 1995. But maybe the changes that have taken place in recent times will mean that the time for sending them to the scrap heap will have to be brought forward?

But can some specific decisions be expected? They can. And most likely they will concern the free-fall atomic bomb arsenal. According to estimates by Western analysts, the North Atlantic alliance has approximately 1,400 of these (both the United States and Britain have already stated their readiness to scrap them). The bloc's headquarters claims that less than one-half of the bombs will remain. It will also be decided to change the structure of NATO's nuclear forces with the aim of bringing them more into line with the "changed security demands in Europe."

On the eve of the meeting of NATO defense ministers in Sicily numerous statements were heard that the North Atlantic alliance will put forward an initiative at which will "better" the proposals by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev on reducing the two countries' tactical

nuclear arsenals. I would like to hope that that will be so. There is not long to wait. Today the military department chiefs are going home.

Cheney Remarks Upon Arrival

PM2010131791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 17 Oct 91 p 3

[Article by V. Katayev, member of the Interdepartmental Arms Limitation Working Group: "Where the Threat to Disarmament Comes From. Shadow of SDI"]

[Text] The United States has no intention of banning nuclear weapons tests. U.S. Defense Secretary R. Cheney said this on his arrival in Italy to take part in the 17-18 October session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group in Taormina (Sicily). Commenting on Moscow's offer to pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, R. Cheney described it as "unacceptable." "Thus," LA REPUBBLICA states, "the United States does not agree to Gorbachev's proposal to abandon all kinds of nuclear tests and says at the same time that the North Atlantic bloc should retain the opportunity to be the first to inflict a nuclear attack on an adversary threatening it."

There is perhaps no single military program that has withstood such a tremendous onslaught from all kinds of frequently contradictory influences as SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative]. Congressmen assail it, while U.S. presidents invariably state their commitment to it. SDI also underwent a political thrashing in Reykjavik; it has withstood and survived budgetary storms in U.S. legislative circles, a change of head of state, a change in relations between the great powers, and the thawing of these relations. And that's not all.

Everything indicates that some people in the United States are still willing to destroy Soviet-U.S. strategic parity in order to implement the SDI program and are speaking quite seriously of the inadvisability of observing the ABM Treaty. Yet this treaty—for good or ill—has served to stabilize USSR-U.S. strategic relations since 1972.

I would remind you that Article XV of this treaty allows any country to withdraw from it if "extraordinary events have jeopardized its supreme interests." There are fewer and fewer military preconditions left now for these "extraordinary events" to develop. However, it seems that some Americans increasingly want to find them.

The ABM Treaty has not existed for 20 years on its own. It forms part of the military-political structure which has developed and on which the fragile edifice of military parity is built. What will happen to this edifice if the foundation is disrupted by the removal of the block inscribed "ABM Treaty"?

It was this that was meant when, during the preparation of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms Limitation and Reduction [START] (this Strategic Offensive Arms Treaty, as it is known, was signed by the two countries'

presidents in Moscow 31 July 1991), our representative, A.A. Obukhov, USSR deputy foreign minister, issued a statement at the recent Soviet-U.S. talks concerning the indissoluble link between the ABM and START Treaties. This statement was included in the official START materials. It was noted that one party's withdrawal from or substantial violation of the ABM Treaty could be the extraordinary event that could compel the USSR to withdraw from the START Treaty.

It is quite obvious that the link between these two highly important treaties was the basis for continuing the talks on nuclear and space-based arms and strategic stability and for further reducing the sides' strategic (nuclear and nonnuclear) arms. Regrettably, the U.S. leadership is trying not to notice this.

What is making Washington stick to SDI and act as if the United States was now in mortal danger and the state's supreme interests were jeopardized, and to such a considerable extent that it is willing to agree to expenditure comparable to its yearly budget, break the ABM Treaty, and even put the skids under the START Treaty, which is essential not only for us and the Americans, but also the entire human community? Does this not stem from the conviction that SDI is ABM defense?

As is well-known, President R. Reagan was the first and keenest advocate of SDI, announcing 23 March 1983 the start of work in the United States to develop a wide-ranging ABM defense system. Evidently, military men at the time both in the United States and in our country only saw SDI as an ABM system, whereas R. Reagan saw it as something more, something offensive.

Our military-technical circles took the U.S. undertaking most seriously. In-depth appraisals were carried out involving the country's best scientific and technical resources and leading institutes and design bureaus. The multifaceted nature of SDI made it necessary to carry out appraisals in many areas. The appropriate conclusions were drawn as a result. Primarily the fact that the SDI program's ABM defenses can be overcome.

At the same time our missile designers pointed out that "this unique lightning-strike potential is of far more interest to the U.S. Administration than the defensive nature of SDI... So, if the Americans do not agree to the perfectly correct suggestions that SDI be banned and if they deploy SDI satellites, we will have to destroy them as soon as they are deployed..."

But how does SDI look now in its capacity as an ABM defense system? R. Reagan's statement containing the "Strategic Defense Initiative" program promised an antimissile "shield" ("virtually impenetrable," according to the designers) to directly protect all U.S. territory from a nuclear attack. The intention was to use various kinds of ABM defense, including space-based systems capable of hitting warheads in flight and missiles in space and even on earth.

The SDI program's immediate aims were declared to be to create a scientific, technical, and production base for the deployment of fundamentally new weapons and backup systems, including for combat operations in and from space, and to widen the gap still further in relation to the USSR in state-of-the-art technologies.

How did the Americans want to see the balance: strategic attack systems on the U.S. side, protection of their territory from nuclear attack, and protection from retaliation if the Americans were the first to attack. At the same time ABM systems should be capable of disabling 70-80 percent of Soviet ballistic missiles before launching and the remaining missiles and warheads in flight. While the USSR side retains strategic attack weapons and the local antimissile defense system around Moscow permitted under the ABM Treaty.

The authors of SDI are not very worried by the fact that the SDI program's ABM defense on U.S. territory contravenes not only the ABM Treaty but also one of the most important principles of Soviet-U.S. relations—the principle of equality and identical security enshrined in bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements and thus having a juridical nature.

Nor have they noticed that the pressing need for strategic ABM defense is considerably reduced with the lessening of the military danger from the USSR. Another SDI concept has been advanced here: Protection is needed not from Soviet missiles, but from third countries' missiles.

In line with this concept Israel decided to safeguard itself with Patriot anti-aircraft missiles. An U.S.-Israeli project for a new antimissile missile, "Arrow," has emerged. This upsurge of interest in tactical ABM defense makes it possible to keep up attention on funding the SDI strategic program, a concept that formally enables the U.S. Administration to continue to keep SDI afloat.

In the first phase of the SDI program's ABM defense system the Americans propose developing a high-altitude space-based weapons system, putting containers into orbit carrying several tens of thousands of five-kilogram homing missiles. These missiles with their countless gleaming microengines—thus called "Brilliant Pebbles"—have already undergone laboratory tests. Existing delivery vehicles such as "Titan," "Pegasus," and submarine missiles may be used to put them into orbit en masse at an altitude of roughly 500 km. The cost of the first phase of SDI in terms of "Brilliant Pebbles" technology may, according to various estimates, total between \$55 billion and \$140 billion.

Flight tests of the middle tier of ABM defense—the ERIS [Exoatmospheric Reentry Vehicle Interceptor System] ground-launched antimissile missiles that should take out warheads at an altitude of 100 km to 800 km—were carried out in 1990. That same year HEDI [High Endoatmospheric Defense Interceptor] missiles for lower-altitude ABM defense were also tested at the White Sands test range.

There are three doubts plaguing the Americans' planned program: Will these ABM systems ever be used, will the economy of even a country like the United States withstand this program. And—the main point—will deploying fantastically complex and costly weapons ensure that they perform their military-technical task? After all, even simple calculations show that it will not, since systems hundreds of times cheaper can perform the task of countering this ABM defense.

However, military-minded U.S. legislators will not listen to scientific and technical arguments, considerations of cost, or objective military-political assessments of the consequences of deploying a full-scale ABM defense system.

Admittedly, sober voices can nonetheless be heard in the United States. The U.S. press announced that this summer leading members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Commission and the Armed Services Commission, Senators J. Warner, R. Lugar, and W. Cohen, sent a letter to President G. Bush saying that the administration is mistaken in insisting on the tremendous expenditure involved in SDI's space-based weapons.

And such respectable analytical centers as the Rand Corporation, for instance, are gradually coming to the conclusion that the emergence of a wide-ranging ABM defense system will cause strategic stability to deteriorate even if the sides cut their strategic arms.

But this is by no means a general chorus. Money is being allocated for SDI. Some \$20 billion has already been spent. Roughly 20 experiments in space have been carried out over the last two years. It is thought that the first phase of ABM defense at intercept altitudes of 15-100 km and 100-800 km may be set up by the year 2000.

An explanation for this must be sought not only and not so much in the endeavor to safeguard the United States against a nuclear missile attack. The question is how to retain the possibility of earning money from the arms race. You can discern how periods of U.S. economic prosperity depend directly on the activity of U.S. military corporations. Since World War II the military-industrial complex has always had the choicest pick of state orders in the United States (and not only in the United States): the development of the nuclear bomb, the construction of strategic missiles and nuclear submarines, the opening up of space, and the moon shot. In all these cases the state's economic might guaranteed the provision of orders and the creation of the requisite infrastructure for them to be implemented. The state is doomed to carry on sustaining the military-industrial complex otherwise it will be left undefended. For instance, without constant support from the military-industrial complex nuclear potential would die a natural death in 10-15 years.

It must also be borne in mind that European countries are increasingly voicing their discontent with double standards for security—one for the United States and

another for its European allies. But Europe has still not agreed to develop ABM defense. European politicians from 19 countries have developed their own alternative to the U.S. program, Eureka. They have said outright that research under this program is subordinated to civilian aims.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that the USSR and the United States have decided to advance along the path of disarmament, the shadow of SDI will obviously always be present at the talks and retard movement toward a mutual accommodation. One is already conscious of this in Geneva, where Soviet and U.S. delegations have come to the table to continue talks on ABM and space.

Decision on Arms Cuts Examined

PM2110103791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
19 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

[Correspondent N. Miroshnik report under the general heading: "Unprecedented Step by NATO. North Atlantic Bloc To Cut Tactical Nuclear Arms in Europe by 80 Percent"]

[Text] Rome, 18 Oct—Italian Defense Minister V. Rognoni yesterday described the current session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group as the "most important meeting" since the 1979 decision to site intermediate-range nuclear missiles in West Europe.

This was no exaggeration, unlike the usual ceremonial speeches. Defense ministers from the North Atlantic alliance states gathered in the Sicilian spa town of Taormina and adopted decisions that are indeed highly important for the future of Europe. The final communique of this 50th jubilee session of the Nuclear Planning Group, which has just been circulated, provides official confirmation that tactical nuclear arsenals under NATO control in Europe will be drastically cut back in the near future—by up to 80 percent. It is a question of arms operating within the "dual key" system: These arms belong to the United States, but the decision to use them must come from two governments—the U.S. Government and that of the North Atlantic member country on whose territory they are based.

The cuts primarily apply to ground-launched arms systems. But at the same time nuclear bomb stocks will be approximately halved.

It is hard to overestimate the importance of this decision for further strengthening security on the Eurasian continent. Newspapers here cite the following: The total yield of the tactical weapons to be cut is roughly 600 kg of TNT per capita in the Soviet Union. Well, that represents an impressive threat. But let us not forget here that it is not only our country's citizens but also all other Europeans who find themselves under this nuclear sword of Damocles. The steps taken by the NATO ministers were no mere fit of generosity.

The future of tactical weapons in Europe was the main, but not the only, topic of discussion in Taormina. The ministers also discussed other and potentially equally explosive matters—"the growing proliferation of atomic weapons" and the "key question" of control over the "nuclear button" in the new Union of Sovereign Republics—what was the USSR.

The decisions now being adopted in Sicily are subject to final ratification by the NATO council session to be held in Rome in the first 10 days of November. After which, according to NATO specialists, it will take another couple of years for political will to be transformed into real cuts in the arsenals.

Franco-German Task Force Viewed

LD2010193891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1310 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Anatoliy Potapov commentary]

[Text] NATO's Nuclear Planning Group has held a two day session at defense minister level in Sicily. Anatoliy Potapov looks at the results of the meeting: It was an unprecedented decision. After the U.S. initiative to cut nuclear arms, a reciprocal proposal has been made to reduce NATO's tactical nuclear arsenals by 80 percent. Details were worked out to withdraw from Europe the nuclear warheads installed on the U.S. artillery shells and Lance missile. The number of air bombs for NATO's planes in Europe is to be cut by 50 percent. In short this amounts to concrete steps toward nuclear disarmament, which has become feasible now, and this is a gratifying fact since it directly indicates that the cold war is over and that the USSR has turned from an enemy into a partner for the West.

The ministers prepared recommendations for the upcoming NATO summit in Rome, where a decision is to be adopted to change the strategy of the North Atlantic Alliance. However, one regrets that the crucial effort to rid humanity of a nuclear threat has been wasted. What is meant is an unfavorable reaction by NATO, mainly by the United States, to Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to halt nuclear tests. The pre-emptive nuclear attack strategy remains unchanged too, since, as NATO believes, a Soviet threat still exists even though it has changed its nature. This menace finds its expression in political instability and uncertain future of the enormous Soviet nuclear potential, the danger of its scattering across the Republics. So, nuclear weapons is as usually the key element of the so-called strategy of deterrence of NATO.

An initiative by Paris and Bonn stirred different debates at the meeting in Sicily. This concerns the creation of a Franco-German task force, over 50,000 men strong, conceived as the nucleus of a future West European army. This is a direct step towards implementing the Franco-German plan to create a West-European defense system to be built within the framework and under the auspices of the West European Alliance comprising nine

West European states where the problems of defense are concentrated. In a sharp response, the British defense secretary, Sir Douglas Hurd, declared that it would be useful [as heard] and dangerous to duplicate NATO and that he was unable to see how the Franco-German project could be compatible with NATO's strategy in Europe. Indeed, if we put aside polite but noncommittal statements that the Franco-German project may allegedly supplement NATO, we can see that yet another military organization is being planned in Europe. The European defence initiative sponsors regard it as a genuine European security pillar in addition to NATO. One wonders how all this can affect one of the fundamentals of the Helsinki process, the creation of a collective European security system. This is worth thinking about in earnest.

Worldwide Issues

Grachev on Middle East Talks, Japanese Ties

PM1810161591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[G. Alimov report: "President Satisfied with Meeting with Japanese Minister"]

[Text] Andrey Grachev, leader of the USSR president's press service, speaking at a briefing 15 October, did not rule out the possibility of the USSR and U.S. presidents' participating in the work of a future peace conference on the Near East.

He stated that, since this conference is being organized by a joint initiative under the joint chairmanship of the Soviet Union and the United States, it is perfectly possible to expect that the heads of both countries will attend at least the opening of the conference.

True, the date for convening the forum still has not been fixed. And now it is difficult to make any predictions about the direction in which events could develop. But one thing is beyond doubt: Both the Soviet Union and the United States are making immense efforts to see that the bloody knot of problems in the Near East is finally unraveled.

When Could Diplomatic Relations With Israel Be Restored?

The USSR president's spokesman was asked a direct question about whether there is any direct link between the USSR's possible joint chairmanship of the conference and the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel. Of course there are no direct links here, looking at matters from point of view of formal logic, A. Grachev said. But it can be assumed—and the Soviet side has in essence let this be understood—that, in the course of organizing the future conference on the Near East, the problems of mutual relations between the Soviet Union and Israel will also be resolved. The main problem is the restoration of diplomatic relations. I, therefore, foresee,

A. Grachev said, that as soon as the question of holding the conference is settled, the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries can also be expected.

Japan Declares Utmost Support for Reforms in the USSR.

The conversation between Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama and Gorbachev, which lasted almost one-and-a-half hours, is appraised as "good, amicable, and constructive." As A. Grachev stated, when M. Gorbachev summed up this conversation, he drew attention to the fact that the pace of improvement in Soviet-Japanese relations following the USSR president's visit to Japan in April this year, and in particular of late, has accelerated at a speed which was difficult to anticipate even very recently. According to M. Gorbachev "the sum of positive elements which are accumulating in our relations will clearly be able to impart a new quality to them in the near future."

The briefing's chairman singled out several points which, from his point of view, are of undoubted interest. It is a question of accord and of realizing that both sides are ready to speed up the process of moving towards concluding a peace treaty. At the same time the USSR and Japan proceed from the premise that this process should without fail be based on principles of reciprocity. Both the USSR and Japan consider that the continuation of talks presupposes going through certain stages over which it is hardly expedient—let alone possible—to leap. It follows from the statement that both countries value the incipient extremely favorable opportunities. IZVESTIYA's correspondent learned that the Japanese prime minister's message to Mikhail Gorbachev makes a direct statement about all-around support and the solidarity which Japan feels with our country's diverse efforts to become a genuinely constructive partner for Western countries. Judging by everything, the Japanese side takes seriously the efforts which the Soviet Union is making to implement a radical reform. It is claimed that Toshiki Kaifu (who incidentally expresses not only his own opinion in this message but also that of the Japanese leadership and the Liberal Democratic Party) considers it necessary to support these efforts. The reason for granting \$2.5 billion in credits to our country also becomes clear from this. Incidentally this aid does not have any conditions tied to it whatsoever. Let us see what steps will follow in the future.

Belonogov Meets With Egyptian, French Envoys

LD1810025991 Moscow TASS in English
2250 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov on Thursday [17 October] received Ahmad Mahir al-Sayyid, the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Soviet Union, at the latter's request. The ambassador delivered a message to President Mikhail Gorbachev from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The topical aspects of the situation in the Middle East within the context of the forthcoming convocation of a Middle East peace conference, as well as some matters concerning further development of Soviet-Egyptian bilateral relations were discussed.

On the same day Belonogov received Bertrand Dufourcq, French ambassador to the Soviet Union. They focussed on the current state of affairs in the Middle East peace process and steps being taken by the Soviet Union, France and other countries in the run-up to a Middle East peace conference.

Confidence was expressed that Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin's forthcoming visit to Paris soon would promote further coordination of joint efforts in this respect and would give a new impulse to deepening the successfully developing Soviet-French relations.

U.S. Envoy, IBRD Official on MFN Status

*OW1710165791 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1430 GMT 17 Oct 91*

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday the Deputy Chairman of the USSR Committee for the Management of the Economy Arkadiy Volskiy had meetings with a member of the board of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), C. Russell, and the U.S. ambassador to the USSR, Robert Strauss.

They discussed the forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union of deputy finance ministers of G-7 countries (probably on October 26- 28) in order to appreciate the situation here.

One of the subjects Mr. Volskiy discussed with Mr. Russell was whether the West would be willing to delay the Soviet Union's payment of its debt. Mr. Volskiy told journalists after the meeting that a delay could be made but for no more than 18 months.

The IBRD took the view, however, that the delay would not solve any of the Soviet Union's major problems. Like credits for buying food, it would simply help the USSR survive the winter. But it would provide no radical solution to the country's food problems. Mr. Russell thought work on agricultural reforms should not be started later than in November. The development of the Soviet agro- industrial complex should be the main aspect in the relations between the USSR and the IBRD.

The main subject Mr. Volskiy discussed with Mr. Strauss was the programme for U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary Atwood's forthcoming visit to the USSR at the end of November. Mr. Atwood will lead a delegation from several U.S. firms interested in cooperation with Soviet military enterprises in the area of conversion to civilian production. Mr. Strauss promised to give whatever kinds of assistance he could to the development of Soviet-American economic cooperation. In this connection he

would propose to the Senate and administration that they repeal the Jackson-Vanick amendment, which still makes it impossible to give the Soviet Union the most-favoured-nation status.

Further Reportage on IMF Meeting in Bangkok

Director on Soviet Membership

*PM1710143991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
12 Oct 91 Union Edition pp 1, 2*

[Correspondent N. Paklin report: "Statement by IMF Executive Director"]

[Text] Delhi—"It is in our interests to ensure that the Soviet Union becomes a full member of the IMF as soon as possible. However, the admission procedure will naturally take some time. We must know more about the current situation in your country, which is an important trade partner of the West. The IMF does not even have at its disposal elementary data such as the volume of the USSR's gross national product, its balance of payments, and its currency reserves. But I repeat, we do not intend to waste time. The Russian winter is looming. The Soviet Union has asked the West for assistance to the tune of \$10.2 billion to buy food and cover other expenditure in the winter period." M. Camdessus, executive director of the IMF, made this statement during a news conference in the crowded hall of the Queen Sirikit National Congress Center in Bangkok.

Routine sessions of the IMF and the World Bank Boards of Governors will be held 15-17 October at the center. I would remind you that our country asked to join these leading world financial organizations at the beginning of July this year.

However, we were not greeted with open arms. So far we have been allowed only into the anteroom of the IMF, which has specially invented "associate member" status for us. We have thus gained access to technical assistance from the IMF, but not to credits. A special fund of \$30 million was created in order to grant us such assistance, which consists in the elaboration of recommendations on how to carry out economic reform more successfully, in the elaboration of specific development projects, and in the training of specialists. But only full membership in the IMF opens the way to joining the World Bank, which grants substantial credits for development.

Judging by preliminary statements by IMF leaders and the World Bank (whose full name is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) the present sessions of the two financial institutions in the capital of Thailand will be mainly devoted to the problems of the Soviet Union and East European countries. The IMF and the World Bank have accumulated a great deal of experience in how to help capitalist countries overcome temporary difficulties. International financiers have also become skilled at providing assistance to the developing countries, including those which we used to categorize among the "socialist-oriented states." But how to

finance the transition from socialism to capitalism? The most experienced IMF and World Bank experts are baffled in the face of this problem. So they are waiting impatiently for their meeting with the large Soviet delegation headed by G. Yavlinskiy.

Yavlinskiy Addresses Meeting

*LD1710035891 Moscow TASS in English
2115 GMT 16 Oct 91*

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Zatsepin]

[Text] Bangkok October 16 TASS—Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, deputy head of the Soviet interim government, on Wednesday [16 October] addressed the session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Bangkok with a report about the situation in the Soviet Union.

He said Soviet experts believe the economic decline will slow down in the country in 1992.

He said market relations are rapidly developing in the country. Over 400 exchanges were set up in Russia and the number of farms increased sixfold in the Republic over the first six months of 1991. Commercial banks and joint stock societies are mushrooming in the country.

Various laws and legislative enactments adopted by the Soviet parliament provide the legal basis for the country's transfer to a market economy. At the same time, republics have yet to work out a concerted programme of economic reforms.

Yavlinskiy said the August putsch in the Soviet Union ended the confrontation between republican and federal bodies.

He said the Soviet Union has ample natural and manpower resources and huge industrial potential. But the success of reforms will depend not only on the members of the economic community that is being created in the Soviet Union but also on other countries and their aid, including credits to buy foodstuffs and assistance in developing private businesses.

Decision on Debt Deferred

*PM1710160391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
17 Oct 91 Union Edition p 4*

[N. Paklin report: "G-7's Solomonic Decision"]

[Text] Bangkok—No one knows exactly how many people—officially and unofficially—are participating in the annual session of the world's two leading financial organizations: the IMF and the World Bank. Some maintain that it is 14,000, others that it is 16,000. Apart from the official delegations, bankers, businessmen, and politicians of various ranks have arrived in Bangkok. Cardinal questions of the world economy, including the question of assistance to the USSR, are being discussed at the session.

Sharp arguments flared up among members of the "G-7," which is being represented in Bangkok by finance ministers and managers of the U.S., Japanese, German, British, French, Italian, and Canadian central banks. The Americans proposed that the Soviet Union's payment of its debt be postponed at least for several months in order to release money that we could spend on the purchase of food in the coming winter months. It is not known what exact sum is at stake. Some people say \$2.8 billion, others \$5 billion. The Americans were supported by the Japanese. But the Germans, whom we owe the most, incidentally, were opposed to this, which came as a surprise to many people. The German representatives' logic is as follows: If a moratorium is approved on the payment of Soviet foreign debts, this will damage the Soviet Union's prestige on the international currency market. Creditors will doubt the USSR's solvency and the flow of capital into the country will decrease. Thus the good deed will result in negative consequences which will be hard to overcome in the future. Other Europeans supported this point of view too. The differences of opinion could not be resolved. The G-7 adopted a Solomonic decision: to discuss these problems in Moscow, where it intends to send a delegation in the very near future.

But the developing countries, which we always considered to be our—if not direct, then potential—allies, are displaying unease at the attention that the IMF and the World Bank are paying to us. They are afraid of the Soviet Union's emergence on the international currency market. The "Third World" countries fear that the West may start granting financial and economic assistance to our country from resources that they are claiming themselves. You can understand them: The West's financial resources are not unlimited, and the waiting line for loans from the IMF and the World Bank is long.

Finance Ministers To Meet in Moscow

*OW1710035991 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2143 GMT 16 Oct 91*

[From the "Soviet Business Report" for "October 17, 1991"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Finance ministers of the G-7 nations plan to meet with the delegations of the 12 Soviet republics in Moscow on October 26-28 to present their views on how the Soviet Union can cope with the economic crisis. The meeting will take place in accordance with an agreement between the Soviet delegation and the IMF and the World Bank that was reached at a recent IMF and World Bank session in Bangkok.

A republican delegation will comprise the republican prime minister, finance minister, and governors of central and foreign economy banks.

Yavlinskiy Lauds Decision

*LD1710194891 Moscow TASS in English
1532 GMT 17 Oct 91*

[Text] Bangkok October 17 TASS—A session of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank ended in Bangkok on Thursday [17 October].

It discussed the state of and prospects for the Soviet economy, as well as Western assistance to the Soviet Union during the transitional period.

Experts believe the session helped realise the scale of the economic catastrophe in the Soviet Union and the amount of foreign aid needed to cushion the country's transfer to market relations.

Soviet economic strategist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, head of the Soviet delegation, described the session's decision to send G-7, IMF and World Bank finance experts to the Soviet Union next week as a major result of the session. He told a news conference on Wednesday [16 October], the experts are expected to make key decisions in Moscow.

NATO Security Meeting Held in Madrid**Lobov Addresses Session**

*LD1910210691 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1348 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Pometov]

[Text] Madrid, 19 Oct (TASS)—The most important task of the USSR Armed Forces in the changed international situation remains, as previously, to avert any war that might be forced upon the Soviet people and also to reliably defend the state. This was emphasized today by Army General Vladimir Lobov, USSR Armed Forces Chief of General Staff, in his address to the Commission on Defense and Security at the 37th fall session of the NATO Assembly being held here.

Answering reporters' questions, he stated his opinion that the process of disarmament in the United States and USSR will continue to develop successfully, which is fully in keeping with the aim of strengthening the security of all states. On the USSR's stance regarding the French-German proposals to form a European army, V. Lobov said that this is the European countries' own internal affair. What is most important, he said, is that the decision be intended to strengthen security and stability in Europe.

In an interview with TASS on reform of the USSR Armed Forces and the question of transition to a professional army, V. Lobov commented that the obstacles to such a reform are entirely manageable, although major resources will be needed to make the change to an army staffed by professional soldiers. In his opinion, there are two ways of raising these resources: cutting Soviet Armed Forces manpower by 700,000 and streamlining

their structure. To an extent, expenditure will be compensated for through reduced arms purchases.

Will there be any change in the Soviet strategic concept or to the Soviet approach to securing its borders as they are adjusted eastward? Much will depend, General V. Lobov believes, on our neighbors, the Baltic states. The issue of border security will disappear of its own accord if they refrain from establishing their own armies or keep their numerical strength to a minimum.

Commentary Welcomes Expected Cuts

*LD2010084691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 2010 GMT 16 Oct 91*

[Viktor Yenzikeyev Commentary]

[Text] The 37th session of NATO is due to take place in Madrid later this week. It's expected to discuss the new strategic concept of the alliance, the formation of new security structures and the ratification of the treaty on conventional armaments in Europe. For the first time the session will be attended by representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Russian Federation as well as the 16 member countries.

Viktor Yenzikeyev makes these comments:

Any unbiased observer will say that NATO has not remained indifferent to changes in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Soviet-American relations. This is proved by declarations of high-ranking NATO officials in concrete practical steps. On Thursday and Friday [17 and 18 October], the NATO nuclear planning group will meet in Sicily to discuss the reduction of nuclear arms arsenals. NATO defense ministers will reportedly discuss even deeper cuts than those proposed by President Bush. Moscow naturally welcomes any steps directed at lowering the threat of war in Europe and the rest of the world—the removal of nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and conventional arms. It is also reassuring that the Soviet Union is no longer engaged in a peaceful but propaganda offensive, which often was the case in the fifties, sixties and later. Just recall the proposal made in those times on Soviet membership in the North Atlantic Treaty. At the height of the cold war the proposal could hardly arouse anything but a sarcastic smile. But today the interaction of former members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the Soviet Union with NATO is becoming a reality. This has been stressed both in Moscow and the headquarters of the alliance in Brussels.

The participation of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia in the session as associated delegations is another proof of the changes taking place in Europe.

The changes for the better in Europe and the rest of world are impressive. However, it is important not to rest in peace but respond with concrete steps to every gesture of good will of the other side. This holds true of the recent peace proposals of President Gorbachev made

in response to the initiative of President Bush. They became a catalyst of disarmament, a new starting point on the road to a nuclear-free world.

Not so long ago the very idea put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986 seemed Utopian, even to many journalists. In the light of the latest developments the attitude has changed. In the future, on a certain stage, France, Britain and China will be involved in the process of nuclear missile disarmament. One should not overlook the fact that despite the protests of the opposition and the military, the British Parliament has approved government proposals on the reduction of armed forces. This is also a step meeting our common interests.

But such heaps of weapons have accumulated in Europe and the rest of the world in the post-war period it'll take years to destroy them. Still, the events of the past two years have shown that we can achieve greater security, peace and prosperity through common efforts. It is not accidental that there is talk that NATO with its organization and structures should take the initiative in this new undertaking. Why not?

Soviet, NATO Experts See Collaboration

*PM2110100191 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Oct 91 p 4*

[PRAVDA correspondent V. Peresada report: "USSR-NATO: 'Enemy Image' Fading"]

[Text] Brussels—A delegation from the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation has visited Brussels. It was invited by the NATO leadership to familiarize itself with the main areas of that organization's activity and seek ways to organize mutually beneficial cooperation.

Today it is a question of cooperation on a very broad range of problems—military, political, economic, and scientific. At both statewide and republic levels, moreover. That is why the delegation included USSR and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet deputies, military men, economists, scientists, and representatives of the USSR and Russian Foreign Ministries. They had numerous meetings and conversations at NATO's Brussels headquarters and the headquarters of the NATO supreme allied commander, Europe. News briefings and "roundtables" were organized at which opinions were exchanged on the processes taking place in the world, Europe, and the USSR, above all in the light of their effect on tasks of ensuring international security.

What are the results of the visit? How useful was it. I put these questions to representatives from both sides—ours and NATO's.

V. Zagladin, delegation head and USSR presidential adviser:

"The main result is that the meetings we had clearly showed how, owing to the radical changes in the world, the USSR's and NATO's once opposing interests now coincide in many respects. In view of the present situation, NATO is formulating a totally new strategy ruling out the presence of an enemy in the East and, consequently, the need for massive military operations. Hence the preparations for considerable cuts in armed forces and the reorganization of defensive structures. The Soviet military are also moving in the same direction, paving the way for coordination and cooperation.

"The fact that, unlike quite recently, the leadership of the North Atlantic alliance now attaches top-priority importance to the CSCE process is a new element to me. My interlocutors frequently stressed that it is the CSCE that provides the framework for ensuring security on the continent. It is still unclear what role NATO will play in this process; however, this approach considerably broadens opportunities for political cooperation between us.

"At virtually all our meetings we talked about how to develop relations between the Soviet Union, the republics, and NATO. In particular, we concluded that it is essential to actively exchange information that includes a comparative study of our assessments of the international situation and predict various 'risks' and seats of tension. This could be one of the first steps toward establishing direct cooperation with the North Atlantic alliance."

Kent Brown, adviser to the NATO supreme allied commander, Europe:

"We had a very intensive exchange of opinions as to what the USSR and NATO can do together as far as ensuring security is concerned. There is very broad scope for cooperation. Take the problem of nuclear arms control, for instance; we could share our technological achievements in destroying the warheads subject to elimination. The fact that military men and politicians discussed all this together as members of the delegations is particularly important. In that respect the delegation's visit represents a major step forward."

Major General A. Tsalko, deputy chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for Defense Questions:

"NATO's experience in the defense sphere is important for both the Union and for Russia. The process of republic sovereignization is now under way and there are plans for 'breaking up' the armed forces. But the NATO example shows that the presence of an alliance-partnership defense system enables member countries to cut military spending and, most importantly, reinforce mutual trust. Take France or Germany, for instance. It is their NATO membership that has in many respects enabled them to move away from their former enmity and helped them develop their relations.

"I think that we need to study specific forms of this experience more carefully, particularly the NATO organization, its structures, and decisionmaking procedure. Not as we did before, moreover, using the 'enemy image,' but on the premise that we can borrow useful ideas, including the 'golden rule' of counting every kopek spent on defense, which, regrettably, is something that we do not do.

"We discussed various areas of cooperation and we think that it should not be confined just to military areas. It was confirmed once again that NATO is interested in a stable Soviet Union and that we have a whole range of common interests. That, undoubtedly, opens up the way to extensive political, economic, and other partnership between NATO, the Union, and the republics."

Gorbachev Greets UNESCO on 26th Session

LD1810200491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1238 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—"Participation in UNESCO provides each country with the opportunity to draw on world experience and to employ the achievements of others to accelerate the pace of its own development," says a greetings message from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev to the UNESCO general conference circulated here today in connection with its 26th session.

The world is entering an age in which the role of organizations like UNESCO will keep growing, the message points out. "Their universal nature, especially the participation of the most influential states, is all the more important," the head of the Soviet state emphasized. "The time is forever past when UNESCO too was impeded by the ideological and political battles of the cold war. The criteria of humanism and the oneness of the modern world are what, in my view, ensures for it a new resurgence and universal support."

United States & Canada

CIA Representatives To Visit Moscow

LD2010160791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" Program]

[Text] Representatives of the U.S. CIA intend to send a delegation to Moscow to discuss the idea of a direct exchange of intelligence information. This was stated by Russian parliamentary committee chairman Stepashin, who returned from the United States a few days ago. Talks on cooperation were held there by our military officials. According to a WASHINGTON POST account of these meetings, Soviet representatives openly admitted that they need help to assess threats which they believed to emanate from the south, from nearby Third World countries, and their own republics that have seceded.

Northeast Asia

South Korea To Establish Military Contacts

LD1810133991 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] South Korea and the Soviet Union intend to establish contacts in the military field. This has been reported by the South Korean press. It says that the commander of the Far Eastern Military District, Viktor Novozhilov, will go to South Korea next month.

This will be the first such visit since the end of the Korean war in the 1950s. He will take part in a joint seminar on security problems in the Asia and Pacific region.

ROK Defense Ministry Denies Reports

LD1810134391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] The South Korean Ministry of Defense has denied reports that Seoul intends to develop ties with Moscow in the military sphere. This was announced by the Defense Ministry's official spokesman. The point is that the media in the Republic of Korea have reported that Seoul and Moscow intend to begin an exchange of generals to swap experience and to cooperate in the sphere of defense industry.

The Defense Ministry spokesman confirmed that Lieutenant General Ven Ven I, who heads the Ministry intelligence service, would visit the Soviet Union at the end of October to take part in a ceremony of opening a military attache's office in the Korean Republic's Moscow embassy, and that Lieutenant General Novozhilov, commander of the troops of the Far Eastern Military District, would arrive in Seoul on 4 November. He will address a seminar held at a South Korean university, delivering a lecture on the problems of ensuring security in the Asian-Pacific region.

DPRK Ambassador on Nuclear Guarantees

LD1810205291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1914 GMT 15 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct (TASS)—"We are prepared to conclude an agreement on nuclear guarantees, on condition that the United States withdraws its nuclear arms from the territory of South Korea," Son Song-pil, the DPRK ambassador to the Soviet Union, has declared. He was commenting at a news conference held today for Soviet journalists on U.S. President George Bush's initiative to reduce U.S. nuclear arms.

According to the ambassador, the United States should begin such a withdrawal from the territory of South Korea, since "that is the very place where the greatest danger of a nuclear conflict exists." That step, the

ambassador commented, should become the first on the road to the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea.

DPRK Envoy on Bush Nuclear Proposal

PM1810140191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 18 Oct 91 p 3

[By V. Afanasyev: "DPRK: About IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] Inspection"]

[Text] A matter deserving great attention was how Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, described President G. Bush's decision, announced 27 September, to eliminate the entire U.S. arsenal of ground-based, short-range nuclear weapons—theater nuclear weapons—and also to remove all tactical nuclear weapons from ships, attack submarines, and aircraft carriers. U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney told journalists that the Bush initiative also applies to the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from South Korea. Hitherto the U.S. and South Korean authorities have maintained that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea, the ambassador stressed at a meeting with Soviet journalists at the DPRK Embassy in Moscow.

And although we have acceded to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the U.S. nuclear threat against us has mounted more and more, although the treaty contains an article imposing an obligation not to use nuclear weapons against countries that do not possess them, the ambassador stressed.

At a session of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) governors in September, the DPRK was directly pressured to make us accept an IAEA delegation and conclude an agreement on nuclear guarantees. But recently the South Korean defense minister stated that unless the DPRK agrees to accept IAEA inspection, they will use force against us. We regard all this as encroachments on our country's sovereignty.

At the same time, Son Song-pil noted, if the United States really does withdraw U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and eliminate the nuclear threat to us, the way will be opened for concluding an agreement on nuclear guarantees, and a substantial step will be taken along the path of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone.

Japan Ready To Offer Energy Assistance

LD1910033991 Moscow TASS in English
1423 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By correspondent Vasili Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo October 18 TASS—The continuing decline in Soviet oil production may result in another global crisis. This is why Japan is ready to render extensive assistance to the USSR in increasing the production of

energy carriers. As the first step, a special delegation made up of government and private experts will be soon sent to the USSR to analyse the situation, a spokesman for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry told TASS.

They will visit the main oil-producing areas of the Soviet Union, will examine a possibility of using most up-to-date technologies there, which can restore a high level of oil production. Earlier Japan effectively used its technology, specifically in Turkey, for reviving depleted oil field by pumping hydrocarbons and special chemicals under high pressure.

The delegation also intends to study prospects of Tokyo's participation in the modernisation of Soviet oil extracting equipment. Government guarantees are expected to be given for the deliveries made by private firms. They will insure businessmen against a high commercial risk involved in dealing with the Soviet side, which has often delayed payments of late because of hard currency shortages and a lack of coordination between various institutions.

According to the International Energy Agency, Soviet oil production went down by 9.5 per cent between January and August, this year, in comparison with a similar period in 1990. This seriously disorganises the world market of energy resources and results in a muddle with prices. The situation may seriously affect Japan which has no oil reserves of its own. In addition, the reduction of oil exports seriously undermines the Soviet Union's possibility to repay foreign debts, which total 70 billion dollars.

Commentary Assesses Japanese Relations

OW1910155791 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese
1100 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Dmitriyev commentary on the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Soviet-Japanese Joint Declaration]

[Text] On 19 October 1956, the Soviet Union and Japan signed a joint declaration on the restoration of diplomatic relations. Today when the 35th anniversary of its signing is marked, emphasis is being placed anew on that document. As a result of the just-concluded visit to the Soviet Union by Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama, the signs have become evident that this joint declaration can be the starting point for the normalization of Soviet-Japanese relations.

The 1956 Joint Declaration incorporates in it a clause which acknowledges that, after the conclusion of a peace treaty, the Soviet side will hand over two islands—Habomai and Shikotan—to the Japanese side. Subsequently, however, Moscow refused to implement its obligations under this agreement on the grounds that Japan became a U.S. military stronghold in the Far East by concluding a security treaty with the United States.

The conclusion of a peace treaty has been shelved, and the Japanese Government, for dozens of years since, has regarded the territorial issue as an obstacle to improving Japanese-Soviet relations.

At his talks with Foreign Minister Nakayama, President Gorbachev manifested Moscow's intention to take into consideration the development in 1956, when the joint declaration was signed. According to newspapers, a Japanese diplomatic source takes this as progress to a certain extent.

Before this, the same view was expressed by the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Republic, which has come forward to the front in the resolution of issues between the Soviet Union and Japan following the August coup d'etat incident.

The deputy foreign minister of the Russian Republic, Kunaze, has been appointed chairman of the Subcommittee on the Territorial Issue within the framework of a work group, which is to prepare the Soviet-Japanese peace treaty. This deserves attention. I say so because Mr. Kunaze is known as a supporter of the agreements based on the 1956 Joint Declaration by the Soviet Union and Japan and also because his appointment to the organ established under an agreement reached earlier between the foreign ministries of the Soviet Union and Japan can be taken as progress in the process for the integration of views between the central government of the union and the Russian Republic.

In Japan, on the other hand, voices can be heard that prospects for an agreement on the two islands in accordance with the joint declaration are insufficient for the Japanese Government as the Japanese side today calls for a package return of the four South Kuril islands; however, it should be acknowledged that the joint declaration was (?ratified) by the two countries, and because of that reason, it has legal validity.

In addition—I repeat this again—the return of the two islands is set forth as coming after the signing of a peace treaty, not before signing it. Therefore, it is believed that the principle of this joint declaration can certainly be the basis for a compromise for adjustment of Soviet-Japanese relations. There is no other way but a compromise in this issue.

President Gorbachev invited Foreign Minister Nakayama's attention to the stern reality shown in reactions of the Soviet public opinion over comments on the possibility of the Soviet Union accepting the territorial demand of the Japanese side.

The rumors that the south Kuril Islands may possibly be sold over in exchange for Japanese economic aid to the Soviet Union have given rise to increasingly negative reactions in the islands.

All this is a reality that cannot be bypassed and that cannot be eliminated by the will of someone. This must be changed slowly into a desirable direction by adjusting

various issues. I get the impression that Soviet-Japanese relations at present are making progress slowly along this line.

Summing up the results of his talks with Foreign Minister Nakayama, Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin said that, although the two sides had not anticipated a smooth, epoch-making decision, progress was shown.

At the latest talks, official papers on visa-free travel to the south Kuril Islands by Japanese and to Japan by the Kuril inhabitants as well as on increasing the authorized number of correspondents stationed in each other's country were signed. In addition, an agreement was reached on starting Soviet-Japanese talks on the security issue, which have not been even imaginable until now.

Against the backdrop of these agreements, the Soviet decision and [word indistinct] to reduce the troops on the Kurils by 30 percent and to continue reductions in the future are creating favorable reactions in Japan.

We believe that all this is creating an environment for further consolidating the relationship of friendship and good-neighborliness between the Soviet Union and Japan each time we mark an anniversary of the signing of the joint declaration.

Japanese Experts on Talks on Kurils

*PM2010143391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 91 Union Edition p 5*

[By A. Anichkin: "The Japanese Are Satisfied With the Moscow Talks, But a Solution to the 'Island Problem' Will Have To Be Based on Public Support"]

[Text] Japanese experts on the Soviet Union are usually notable for their rather gloomy demeanor. Understand that for decades, they have had to handle issues that, if not immediately leading up a long blind alley, would split into lots of little blind alleys. And if they managed to settle something, in the background there was always distrust, suspicion, or simply hostility.

This is why it was so surprising to sense the uplifted mood of these same professional diplomats and Sovietologists, who on 16 October conducted a briefing for journalists on the results of Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's visit to Moscow. Especially in view of the fact that, in their words, major bilateral decisions were not reached; only a "framework" was agreed for Soviet-Japanese mechanisms which, when they begin operating, will remove some of the backlog of problems and speed up a solution of the main question in Soviet-Japanese relations—the conclusion of a peace treaty that includes a clause on the sovereignty of the islands in the south Kuril chain.

All the signs suggest that the Japanese side considers the most important achievement of the present talks to be the mutually positive approach to the solution of bilateral problems and the understanding of the need to

accelerate the negotiating process. "Japanese-Soviet relations and Japanese-Russian relations are a very complex process, but it is a process that is undoubtedly moving," remarked a highly placed staffer of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He held a meeting with journalists under the conditions that his name not be mentioned in print. "We were left with the feeling that the opportunity to solve our problems is clearly emerging."

This feeling evidently resulted from a series of statements by Russian leaders Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov, and a number of others: They stated the possibility of swifter implementation of the Russian president's widely known five-stage plan for settling relations with Japan, rather than handing this on to a new generation of leaders of the two countries. This approach was confirmed at the meetings in Moscow by President Yeltsin, by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev, and, although in a somewhat more restrained form, by President Gorbachev and Minister Pankin. Russia is acquiring a new role, perhaps the leading role, in talks with Japan, but Tokyo's main partner remains the Soviet Union.

Tokyo links Moscow's new tone, in the Japanese diplomat's words, primarily with the post-putsch atmosphere of liberation and democratization. "We would like to express our sincerest feelings of support for any changes in the USSR aimed at democratization," the "Gaimusho" (Japanese Foreign Ministry) staffer said with not-very-Japanese emotion. In his words, the decision to grant the USSR aid worth \$2.5 billion, announced shortly before Nakayama's Moscow trip, was dictated precisely by the desire to support these processes and not by a desire to speed up a solution to the "island problem." Tokyo still holds immutably to the principle of the "indivisibility of economics and politics," which links wide-scale trade and economic cooperation to progress on the territorial problem. Now diplomats are talking of a "new interpretation" of the clearly obsolete but still not formally discarded principle.

Be that as it may, the sum of aid is so impressive that in Tokyo—and likewise in Moscow, incidentally—a fully understandable desire for clear control over its use has emerged. At the talks in Moscow, at the suggestion of the Japanese side, accord was reached on the creation of a committee or a commission involving representatives of Japan, the USSR, and Russia to elaborate ways to use this aid effectively.

One of the potentially most important decisions was the accord (this time the proposal came from our side) on the creation of two subgroups within the working group on the preparation of a peace treaty. The working group itself, in which staff of the two countries' foreign ministries participate, was set up after E. Shevardnadze's visit to Tokyo in 1988, but after eight rounds, it was unable to achieve any decisive shifts forward. Of the two territorial groups, one will deal just with the territorial question, the other with all the remaining aspects of a peace treaty.

Japanese diplomats evidently link their main hopes for an accelerated settlement of the islands question with this accord. Especially in view of the fact that the territorial subgroup will most likely be headed by RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze, who even before he took up this post had long been known for his active search for solutions to the deadlock on the South Kuril Islands.

Among the important measures for strengthening trust in the military sphere, the Japanese diplomats noted the Soviet side's decision to reduce the numbers of its Armed Forces deployed on the South Kuril Islands by 30 percent. Now they will amount to around 8,000 people. According to statements published earlier, the reductions will be carried out within a year.

A relatively new factor in the talks—and, it seems, one unexpected for Tokyo—was the opinion resolutely stated by the Soviet side that, in any accord on the territorial question, "public opinion within the country must be taken into consideration." The fate of the current inhabitants of the islands and their interests must be taken into consideration in any accord. Obviously on this account it is not accidental that the newspaper *NIHON KEIZAI*, when the talks in Moscow had already begun, published a report from its Moscow correspondent to the effect that the Japanese Government had "determined its course" regarding the Soviet people living here on the islands. This "course" includes granting the right to reside in these territories to all Soviet citizens who will be resident there at the time they are returned to Japan, payment in compensation to those who wish to resettle on the mainland, including resettlement expenses, and granting those who remain the chance to receive either Japanese citizenship or permanent residence rights. Property rights, however, will have to be transferred to Japanese—the former inhabitants of the islands.

This report leaves many questions open, but the Japanese Foreign Ministry staffer conducting the briefing refused to confirm that even the report itself was the government position. In his words, given the present stage of the talks and public opinion in the USSR, a public statement of Japan's intentions on this question might create difficulties for the Soviet side. "Nevertheless, whatever happens, we would like to express the warmest feelings regarding the islanders," he said. This diplomat recently met with one of the Japanese who was subjected to forcible deportation shortly after the end of the war. "He has no hostile feelings toward those who live there now, and no way does he wish to see a repeat of the eviction tragedy; and I fully share his feelings," the Japanese diplomat said.

Sakhalin Residents Strike for Kurils

*OW1910034191 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese
1400 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Text] A two-hour political strike has been staged on Sakhalin in protest of the results of Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama's Moscow talks.

Participants in the strike assert that the South Kuril Islands, which Japan demands be returned, are Russian territory. The local inhabitants feel that should the four islands of the South Kurils be lost, the fisheries sector in the Far East would sustain a crushing blow.

Attitude in Sakhalin 'Seething'

OW2110075991 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 0845 GMT 8 Oct 91

[A. Perevozchikov video report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] Good evening, Dalniy Vostok, the weekly television review from Khabarovsk is on the air.

A significant part of today's issue will be devoted to news from Sakhalin. Sakhalin today is seething. Passions are boiling in connection with the solution of the Kuril Islands problems, and more precisely perhaps, because of the lack of a solution to this problem. And so, Sakhalin news is worrying news.

[Begin recording] [Perevozchikov] Soviet historians maintain that all the Kuril Islands have been an independent part of Russia since the middle of the 18th century by right of discovery, settlement, and assimilation. The Japanese point of view is an exact copy of ours with one exception—the main heroes here have switched roles. Their historians consider the Kurils to be an inalienable part of Japan.

Discovered comparatively recently, at the beginning of the 17th century, the islands were assimilated by Russians and the Japanese simultaneously during the course of the next 200 years. We will begin our account from the middle of the past century. Indeed, according to the 1855 Shimoda Treaty and the 1875 St. Petersburg Treaty, the four islands of the southern Kuril group were considered Japanese territory.

In 1905, after the signing of the Portsmouth Treaty ending the Russo-Japanese war, Japan attacked Southern Sakhalin and very quickly occupied it. By this action, Japan put itself outside the jurisdiction of the St. Petersburg Treaty that it signed in 1875. On the basis of this very complicated situation, the Soviet Government, after dissolving the non-aggression pact with Japan in 1945, denounced it. After numerous warnings on the need for Japan to quit the war, the Soviet Government fulfilled its Alliance obligations and declared war against Imperialist Japan on the side of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and other Allies. After conducting brilliant operations, the assault on Southern Sakhalin and landings in the Kurils, [the USSR] liberated these ages-old Russian lands.

And so, for the past 46 years, the USSR and Japan find themselves in a state that cannot be called either peace or war. In April of this year the President of the country, Mikhail Gorbachev, during his visit to Japan, admitted the existence of a territorial demarcation problem. But

having decided a number of secondary issues at the talks, the sides could not come to an agreement on the main issue, the peace treaty. Japan persistently insisted on handing over all the islands of the South Kuril group, and the Soviet delegation, knowing the mood of the people, could not decide to take such a step. Then there was a lull that lasted not quite five months. The detonator to the emotional explosion was Ruslan Khasbulatov's trip to Japan and also the interview given to KYODO TSUSHIN agency by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy where he spoke in favor of an immediate hand over of the Southern Kurils to Japan.

Exactly a year ago Boris Yeltsin visited the islands and put forward a five step plan to normalize relations with Japan, wherein the final resolution of the territorial problem was deferred far, some 25-30 years, into the future. Judging by the latest announcements of the Russian leadership, this period may be reduced. And so to explain these changes in the Russian Government's position, a delegation composed of Georgiy Kunadze, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic; Oleg Kalugin, USSR Peoples' Deputy; and Sergey Sirotkin, member of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Human Rights Committee, left for the islands.

This visit was interpreted in the oblast as a preparation of the population for the handover of the islands. Kunadze's press conference in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, which was chaired by Valentin Fedorov, Chairman of the Oblispolkom [oblast soviet executive committee], essentially ended in a quarrel. Valentin Fedorov further hardened his already irreconcilable position at his own news conference, where he demanded the dismissal of Georgiy Kunadze from the post of Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic. We offer you a chronicle of these and other events.

In line with an agreement reached in Tokyo in April between Gorbachev and Kaifu, a group of Japanese citizens arrived on the island today. This is the first time they could step onto this soil without entry visas. At the end of the year, Kuril residents will carry out a similar journey to Hokkaido.

A holiday was held in the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk City Public Park in honor of this mission, called the Peace Ship. Several hours before it began, Valentin Fedorov, the Chairman of the Oblispolkom, made his first serious announcement. [video shows Perevozchikov interviewing Fedorov in the park]

[Fedorov] I do not exclude anything. It depends on how events unfold in Russia. If they are going to give up the Kurils—which on the whole is not dependent on politicians but on the outcome of a Russian referendum—then it will be possible to raise the issue of a Far Eastern republic. If Russia cannot help Sakhalin and preserve the Kuril Islands, then the Far Eastern republic will help Russia to decide this issue to the benefit of Russia.

[Perevozchikov] On the same day, 19 September, Fedorov further hardened his position at a meeting with the delegation of Japanese journalists.

[Fedorov] We can easily arouse the whole of Russia in our support. The lofty aim of preserving and developing friendly relations between Japan and Russia is restraining us from taking this step.

[Perevozchikov] The Peace Ship departed for the Kurils on 21 September. For a period of time everything remained calm in the Oblast. But from this day events began developing wildly and rapidly. Georgiy Kunadze, RSFSR Deputy Foreign Minister, left for the islands, transiting through Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. [video shows Kunadze being interviewed by journalists on the way to an aircraft]

[Kunadze] The constitutional right of the citizens of Russia is to know the whole truth, the objective truth. Not the truth that has been rearranged in a tendentious interpretation and which is not always objective and complete, but precisely the complete and unadorned truth. And we are determined to tell this truth to the people. [video shows Kunadze addressing a rally]

First, the question of territorial ownership of these islands exists, and we do not intend to hide the truth from you here. This issue exists as an objective legal reality, and since the issue exists, it is necessary to resolve it. The Russian Government, taking complete responsibility upon itself, intends to solve this issue through negotiations with Japan.

Second, the resolution of this issue cannot be reconciled within a framework of some kind of a business deal. We will never set out to waive the lawful interests of the Russian state and the Russian people in exchange for some kind of material and financial benefits that Japan could grant. We do not tie the issue of our borders with the provision of urgent economic aid to Russia by Japan or any other State. The issue of borders, for us, is one of principle, in which we will be guided by the interests of justice, legality, and the interests of our citizens.

All that will be done here in the near and foreseeable future, everything will be brought to your knowledge, fully and without any kind of exceptions.

[Unidentified woman] People of the Kurils, why are you silent? We were born here, our children were born here, where can we go? About which rights can they speak? What rights, if they let the Japanese in here and I remain here? Must I live under the Japanese yoke?

[Unidentified voice] Yes, yes, yes!

[Woman] And if our government does not want to protect us, does not want to make it so that we can live normally, then don't, don't. We will create a separate Kuril republic, that is my proposal! This is quite serious. [Crowd responds with applause and cries of "Right, well done;" video cuts to show O. Kalugin, USSR Peoples' Deputy, addressing the rally]

[Kalugin] We have many sins, and you are aware of them. Beginning with the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and ending with our aggression and the putsch in Afghanistan. I am not recounting them all, but today our leadership has found in itself the courage to renounce what was done and condemn the outrages of our former leaders. If we return to carrying out our direct responsibilities in respect to the international community, and to Japan in particular, we will be taking one more step to reinstate our reputation as a dependable member of the international community. [video cuts to show (?Sergey Sirotkin) addressing the rally]

[Sirotkin] Someone just raised a banner. I noted it from the very beginning and I will read what it says as some of you may not be able to see it: We do not want to share the fate of Russian refugees. We are working on the refugee problem. This is a very complex and very painful problem. Presently there are 150,000 refugees living in Russia alone; throughout the country there are more than half a million. So it can be said clearly that there will be no refugees from the Kuril Islands. If there is to be a resettlement [otseleniye] of citizens it will be on a strictly voluntary basis and only in the event that suitable conditions are prepared at the new location. Nobody will be presented with a bundle of our wooden ones [referring to worthless rubles], and nobody will be evicted or deported from here. The issue is not being viewed in these terms. [video cuts to show interview with an unidentified group of people]

[First man] Everything is already known in advance, that the islands will be turned over to Japan.

[Perevozchikov] You consider...

[First man, interrupting] Yes, according to what they have said that is what will happen.

[First woman] Well, nevertheless it is good that they are warning us about this a little in advance. For instance, I was pleased that they are nevertheless promising something to the Soviet people—I mean us Kuril Islands residents—that they will not simply evict us with 40 kilograms [of chattels] and a knapsack.

[Second woman] Well the Ukraine will not let Ukrainians in now and Lithuania will not let in Lithuanians. They say they have their own problems with Russians. So tell me, where will people go, where will they go? All of us are here, Ukrainians, Belorussians, Lithuanians, and Latvians, we are represented here. If we must go, then only to some other country. [video shows delegation of Japanese being welcomed as they disembark from a small vessel. A screen caption reads: 22 September, Iturup Island]

[Perevozchikov] A little earlier the Peace Boat arrived in the Kuril Islands, and frankly there were many fears that the reaction of the local people to this visit would not be simple, to put it mildly. [video shows interview with a man on Iturup Island]

[Second man] We did not want to receive them. There was a moment when we simply did not want to receive them. This happened over two days, Saturday and Sunday a week ago, when we heard reports on Khasbulatov's visit to Japan. Everyone here was extremely indignant. There was an explosion—or rather a splash, not an explosion—of indignation, mostly because there was no information.

What do we need all of this for? Why not get together and talk? Maybe together we can find a normal solution. If, pardon me, our government and our leaders cannot find it...

[Perevozchikov, interrupting] Let the people decide.

[Second man]...let the people decide for themselves. That is what we want. [video shows Japanese visitors and locals dancing in front of a building]

[Perevozchikov] It is a long-known fact that people find a common language between one another much faster than politicians or diplomats. [video cuts to show a coastal town from an aircraft; a screen caption reads: 26 September, Shikotan Island]

[Perevozchikov] Malokuril'skiy settlement. Members of the government delegation knew quite well that tensions among the people of this island were running particularly high. The 1956 declaration, according to which Habomai and Shikotan must be turned over to Japan, is remembered here all too well. [video cuts to show L. Sedykh, director of the Ostrovnoy fishing combine, addressing a meeting]

[Sedykh] Today there is no need to attempt to put blinkers on anybody's eyes, since today we have become accustomed to blaming everything on the bolsheviks, on the communist usurpers—as a matter of fact I am a Communist and I am proud of it—and on previous generations of deceitful rulers, while today we must believe in everybody who is at the helm. I would nevertheless like to guardedly raise some doubts in this area, why they have emerged among people. After all, who remains at the head of the government today? In the country it is our President Gorbachev. In Russia it is President Yeltsin, while Comrade Khasbulatov today is the acting chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet and Comrade Fedorov today heads the oblast executive committee.

Let me remind you. Gorbachev's speech in Sverdlovsk: We have no superfluous land. You remember? Now he is carefully keeping silent...

[Unidentified voice interrupting] We will not trade in land.

[Sedykh] ...although, it should be emphasized, up to April he maintained his own personal position and this position was acceptable to the islanders. More on this issue. You may recall the official statements in the press and on television, the video clips that were made by our representatives on the oblast executive committee, its chairman Valentin Petrovich Fedorov. Their direct

meaning was that Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin is the one man who can speed up the resolution of the problem of the return of the Northern Territories—do not fear Gorbachev, fear Yeltsin.

Valentin Petrovich is not with us today. Before visiting Japan he once again assured us through the mass media that he had had a talk with Khasbulatov and that the problem of returning the territories would not be viewed in as fundamental a way. He tried to soothe public opinion. He is probably not here today because he would be ashamed to look us in the eye. He will come after this delegation, and this we already know. [video cuts abruptly to show Fedorov sitting between Kunadze and Kalugin and other officials, addressing a press conference; a screen caption reads: 27 September, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk]

[Fedorov in progress] ...will recall much, and are already recalling that the Tatar SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] is also an ancient Russian territory.

[Perevozchikov] The central press has already written about this news conference. The positions of the sides can be described roughly as follows: Georgiy Kunadze spoke about the need to fulfill international agreements, particularly the 1956 declaration, while Valentin Fedorov reiterated his well-known position that a territorial problem between our countries simply does not exist—it is Russian land.

The scandal erupted for a different and completely unexpected reason. [video shows a reporter at the press conference directing a question to Kunadze]

[First reporter] This morning I interviewed Valentin Petrovich Fedorov on the Kuril Islands issue. In it he very vehemently criticized your personal position to the effect that you support the hand over of the islands. In conclusion Fedorov said: The person called Georgiy Fridrikhovich Kunadze has absolutely no moral or ethical right to decide the fate of an ages-old Russian territory. What can you say about this?

[Fedorov interrupting] I did not say ages-old, I said Russian territory.

[Kunadze] Well, I can say the following concerning this issue. Valentin Petrovich's personal opinion on my personal views is Valentin Petrovich's business, and I will not comment on this. But the second point in this statement, if it is really true and if Valentin Petrovich finds it impossible to disavow it, I will leave it on Valentin Petrovich's conscience and will also decline from commenting on it. [video cuts to show another reporter]

[Second reporter] There is an ethnic question involved in this.

[Kunadze] I would say that a nationalistic matter is mixed up in this in one of its most loathsome manifestations. I would also say that generally it is obviously the duty of leaders who are invested with power and who

bear responsibility; it is their duty to try to somehow correct this question and change these perceptions.

[Fedorov] Comrades, if you reject the verbal obstructions you will see that it is the surrender of the Kuril Islands that is under discussion. That is all. Yes, and the delegation, at least Georgiy Fridrikhovich, he came here in order to ideologically prepare the surrender of our positions. If you wish to solve this problem without us you will not succeed, you will fail. I will defend this point of view to the end, and apparently I will have to be relieved of my position before this issue will be solved. But before this I will let it be known far and wide that on moral grounds you do not have the right to be holding the position of deputy minister of foreign affairs.

[Kunadze] If you really refuse to disavow this right now, immediately, then I can tell you just as publicly and in front of everyone that first of all I consider you to be a dishonorable person with whom I can no longer shake hands, and secondly I reserve the right to sue you. [video cuts to show an interview with Fedorov; screen caption reads: Sakhalin TV, 1 October, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk]

[Perevozchikov] Apparently feeling that at the previous press conference his position was not too convincing, Valentin Fedorov soon called the journalists back again to voice his demand that Georgiy Kunadze, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic, resign.

[Fedorov in progress] ...news conference on television I did not feel that sitting there was a citizen of the RSFSR or USSR. These are not even pro-Japanese positions. They are the most unadulterated Japanese positions. So there must be something to counter them and I am seeking such people and we will mobilize them. [video shows an unidentified reporter]

[Third reporter] Valentin Petrovich, if our position will be immutable, and there is a feeling that this is so, and if the position of Japan also does not change, and there is even greater confidence in this, then this will mean that a peace treaty will not be signed. What will be the consequences, in world politics and in the economy?

[Fedorov] Nothing will eventuate. That is the way we should live. We have lived for 45 years without a peace treaty and we can live without it as long as you wish for another 45 years. What is so unusual about this? [Video cuts to show Japanese tourists and locals picnicking and snacking on caviar by a beach]

[Perevozchikov] Abruptly cutting our story short we are once again for the umpteenth time faced by a question mark. What lies ahead is unknown. One thing is clear—the ideological struggle is intensifying, a struggle for the consciousness of the people. Whoever wins it will get the islands. The main thing is that this rivalry be honest. [end recording]

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Rogachev Cited on Upcoming Cambodian Conference

LD1910122191 Moscow TASS in English 1134 GMT
19 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Vasily Titov]

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The signing of agreements on a comprehensive Cambodian political settlement in Paris on October 23 will pave the road to peace and national accord in that long-suffering country, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev told TASS today.

He said that the agreements will be signed, in the presence of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, by Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, and the foreign ministers of 18 countries attending a conference on Cambodia in Paris, who will include Boris Pankin of the Soviet Union.

The Paris meeting, made possible by the fundamentally new climate in international relations, will cap the long and complex search for a generally acceptable solution to the protracted regional conflict in the interest of the Cambodian people, Rogachev said.

He noted important contributions made to the settlement by all participants in the Paris peace-making process, primarily Cambodian sides themselves, as well as the role played by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, whose peace plan underlies the agreements to be signed.

Rogachev said the key principle of the agreements is the free expression of their will by the Cambodian people through general elections under U.N. supervision with a view to creating a peaceful, democratic and neutral state, which will be open for cooperation with neighbouring countries and the world community.

The Soviet Union, he said, intends, in cooperation with all interested sides, to give all-round assistance with the fulfilment of the Paris accords.

Near East & South Asia

Bush, Gorbachev To Attend Mideast Talks

LD1810164391 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1601 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 18 Oct (TASS)—Mikhail Gorbachev, the USSR president, and George Bush, President of the United States, are to take part in the opening ceremony of the international conference on the Middle East, which is to open on 30 October in Madrid.

An official White House representative has just reported this.

Gorbachev, Israel's Peres on Diplomatic Ties

*OW1810114691 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0737 GMT 18 Oct 91*

["Diplomatic Panorama" report; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the Kremlin today, Mikhail Gorbachev conferred with the former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres who is the leader of Labor Party. Revealing some details of the meeting, the press attache of the Israeli Consulate in the USSR, Yousef Ben Dor, told DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama"] correspondent that different issues were under discussion: the state of affairs in the USSR, the situation in the Middle East, the development of Soviet-Israeli relations, and regional cooperation.

In connection with the upcoming renewal of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel M. Gorbachev said that this process is irreversible and that diplomatic ties will be reestablished as soon as the exact time for convening a conference on peace in the Middle East is fixed. According to M. Gorbachev, the USSR will restore diplomatic relations with Israel before the conference begins its work.

Shim'on Peres thanked the Soviet president for what he described as "opening the gates" for the emigration of ethnic Jews to Israel. He also praised M. Gorbachev for his opposition to anti-Semitism and other forms of ethnic and racial discrimination.

Peres on Science, Cooperation Plans

*LD1810194191 Moscow TASS in English
1913 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[By diplomatic correspondent Andrey Pershin]

[Text] Moscow, October 18 TASS—The Soviet Union can play an important role in projects to supply the Middle East with electricity, water, and new technologies, Shim'on Peres, prominent Israeli politician and public figure, former prime minister, told TASS today.

The main purpose of his visit to the USSR is to discuss joint plans for scientific, technological and economic cooperation. He was received by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, met with Arkadiy Volskiy, deputy head of the USSR Economic Management Committee, with Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Political Consultative Committee of the Soviet president, with scientists and businessmen.

Peres said that these plans envisaging international participation are being worked out. Leaders of the USSR, the U.S., and Middle East countries, specifically Egypt, have been informed of these plans. Israel is interested, above all, in getting the technology of water desalination.

Peres said that his conversations with Soviet partners were positive and pointed out that interest in the development of ties with Israel is growing.

Regarding the expected restoration of full diplomatic relations with the USSR, Peres said: "In 1967, when diplomatic relations between the two countries were broken off, Soviet policy in the Middle East stopped in its development. Now, in 1991, it begins to develop again. There are no reasons for hostility between the USSR and Israel. Quite the contrary, there is every reason for the versatile and fruitful advance of relations between them".

"There are plans to give energy and water for the Negev Desert", Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences and director of the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy, told TASS. The main routes passing through the Middle East cross the Negev Desert. He said that the joint project is a typical project of the end of the 20th Century, the beginning of the 21st Century.

Similar projects can be implemented in Africa, America, in the Far East, wherever there is acute need in sources of energy and fresh water. "We wish to supply the Middle East with new technology which will serve peace, cooperation and mutual understanding among peoples in the region. This is the main task, and we are glad we can contribute to its implementation", Velikhov said.

In addition to meetings and consultations in Moscow, Peres intends to visit the Caspian Sea to familiarise himself on the spot with the Soviet technology of water desalination.

Gorbachev Personal Envoy Arrives in UAE

*LD1910193991 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1811 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[By correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (TASS)—Karen Brutents, personal envoy of the USSR president, arrived in the capital of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today with a message from Mikhail Gorbachev to Shaykh Zayid-bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. Immediately after arriving, the Soviet emissary was received by Shaykh Hamdan-bin-Zayid al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs of the UAE.

Karen Brutents will visit Saudi Arabia on a similar mission.

In a conversation with the TASS correspondent, the personal envoy of the USSR president pointed out that his visit and the instructions that are being carried out are dictated by the interest of the Soviet state in developing relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which have acquired a new quality since the Kuwait crisis.

Foreign Minister Pankin Tours Mideast

Pankin on Aims of Trip

PM1810151591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 18 Oct 91 p 3

[By Sami 'Imarah and 'Abd-al-Hamid Yahyawi: "Pankin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Relations With Israel To Be Restored Today"]

[Excerpts] Moscow, Brussels, occupied Jerusalem, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—[Passage omitted] In Moscow [Soviet Foreign Minister Boris] Pankin emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the question of announcing the restoration of diplomatic relations was on the agenda of his visit to Israel, which he was starting yesterday. Before his departure from Moscow for Israel yesterday morning, the Soviet minister said that diplomatic relations are a form of relations between states in the civilized world. He pointed out that the restoration of relations with Israel is in no way aimed against the Arab states' interests and that it is a step designed to establish peace, stability, and good-neighborliness in the Middle East region.

Boris Pankin said that his trip to the Middle East aims at discussing aspects concerning the peace process and arriving at positions that will help in convening the peace conference. He emphasized that since he assumed his post as Soviet foreign minister he has been in constant contact with his U.S. opposite number, James Baker, over these questions.

Replying to another question put forward by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the likely venue for the peace conference, Pankin said that discussions were taking place about venues in number of European states like Prague (Czechoslovakia) and Lausanne (Switzerland), and he emphasized that this was in itself of prime importance. He said that it was a question of finding a state that can help finance the convening of the conference.

With regard to the possibility of a meeting between Minister Pankin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the Soviet minister told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there is a plan to hold such a meeting, emphasizing that there were no political obstacles to prevent such a meeting from being held, but the matter was confined only to finding the right opportunity for it.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the possibility of discussing the nomination of Dr. Butrus Ghali for the post of UN secretary general with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during the talks to be held today in Israel, the Soviet minister said: "The primary subject at the meeting with Secretary Baker is first and foremost the completion of the final arrangements for convening the peace conference. But I do believe that that question will also be discussed between us." [passage omitted]

Terms Talks 'Historic Chance'

AU1810145091 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German
18 Oct 91 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin by Vladimir Markov; place and date not given: "Great Historic Chance"]

[Text] [Markov] What are your objectives for your first trip to the Middle East, in the course of which you will not only visit Israel but also Syria, Jordan, and Egypt?

[Pankin] As cochairman of the Middle East peace conference, we want to conclude the preparations for the conference. One must use the great historic chance the peoples in the Middle East have been offered and to discuss all problems and restore lasting peace and good-neighborly relations in the region. If the parties involved, however, sit down at the negotiating table under the cochairmanship of the Soviet Union and the United States, it is important that substantial problems are solved so that the results satisfy all participants.

In this connection I would like to point out a most recent example: When the presidents of Croatia and Serbia sat down at the negotiating table with Gorbachev, they were in quite a different frame of mind. I hope that this way it is possible to achieve good results. The negotiating table is the best means of solving problems in our complex and contradictory world.

[Markov] To what extent is the Soviet position on the settlement of the Middle East problem identical with the attitude of the United States?

[Pankin] Essentially, we hold one and the same point of view on this question. Both sides want to promote a settlement of the Middle East conflict and the convocation of a peace conference. From the very first days of my work as Soviet foreign minister we have had close contacts with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. We met before in Moscow and New York, we exchange letters regularly, and we speak on the telephone. As far as the issue of settling the Middle East issue is concerned, the positions of all the participants in the peace conference must be harmonized, so that we can convene the conference and achieve success.

[Markov] Where should the conference be held?

[Pankin] So far several European cities, including the Swiss city of Lausanne, have stated that they would be interested. I think that the venue of the conference is not of vital importance.

[Markov] In your meeting with Secretary of State Baker do you also intend to discuss the issue of a Soviet-U.S. summit meeting between Gorbachev and Bush at the opening of the Middle East peace conference?

[Pankin] Yesterday, I talked to Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, and he gave me his blessing. If the conference takes place—which we all hope—he wants to take

part in the opening. We expect the same from President Bush. If they meet they will surely find time to discuss other issues, too. These issues include, first and foremost, their joint initiative on disarmament in the sphere of nuclear and conventional armaments.

[Markov] Baker's recent negotiations in Syria lasted for eight hours. How long will your talks last there?

[Pankin] We will negotiate everywhere as long as necessary. Nevertheless, I think that Mr. Baker even spoke partly on our behalf as the cochairman of the conference.

Meets Baker in Jerusalem

*LD1810120291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1104 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[By special correspondents Aleksandr Zhudro and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 18 Oct (TASS)—A meeting took place in Jerusalem today between USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Issues relating to the final stage of preparation for a peace conference on the Middle East were at the center of attention of the leaders of the U.S. and Soviet foreign political departments. In particular, the role its cochairmen are called upon to play at the forthcoming forum was discussed. The sides informed each other about the contacts made in Israel. The U.S. secretary of state informed the USSR foreign minister about the talks he held with the leaders of other participant-countries in the future conference. The sides exchanged opinions on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Before the meeting with Boris Pankin, James Baker informed journalists that this morning Palestinian representatives handed to him a list of Palestinian figures who are proposed as members of the Jordan-Palestinian delegation to the conference.

The local mass media is closely following the talks in Jerusalem. "The presence of Boris Pankin and James Baker in Israel at the same time certifies that diplomatic efforts, aimed at ensuring that a peace conference on the Middle East is convened, have entered the stage of tremendous intensity"—this opinion was expressed by a presenter of an Israeli television news program.

Meets West Bank, Gaza Palestinians

*LD1810115591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1111 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[By special correspondents Aleksandr Zhudro and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 18 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is in Israel as part of a working trip to a number of countries in the Near East, has met with Palestinian figures from the West Bank of the River Jordan and from the Gaza sector today. During the

meeting, which was held at the "National Palace" Hotel in East Jerusalem, issues were discussed relating to the groundwork for the peace conference on the Near East. An exchange of opinions took place regarding the role of the Soviet Union as one of the cochairmen of the upcoming forum and of the diplomatic steps aimed at ensuring the success of the future talks, which are called upon to lead to a lasting and just peace in the region. Boris Pankin was acquainted with the list of Palestinian figures proposed as delegates to the conference.

Ends Visit to Israel

*LD1810192391 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1736 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[By special correspondents Aleksandr Zhudro and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 18 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, who is on a working tour of a number of countries in the Near East, has ended his visit to Israel.

A second round of talks between Pankin and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi, took place today. After completion of the talks, a joint statement by the heads of foreign political departments of the two states was announced on the restoration of full diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel, which were severed in 1967.

According to Pankin, this step should be viewed as a contribution to a settlement in the Near East, which not only will promote a further development of Soviet-Israeli links and contacts, but also agrees with the interests of all the countries in the region.

The USSR foreign minister was also received today by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. The discussion concerned the forthcoming peace conference, as well as the bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

In the evening, Pankin and U.S. Secretary of State Baker held a joint news conference. It was announced there that the conference on the Near East under cochairmanship of the USSR and the United States will open on 30 October this year in Madrid. On behalf of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, the ministers invited Israel, the Arab countries, and the Palestinians to take part in the peace forum.

Talks to Reporters in Damascus

*LD1910094391 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2034 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[By special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev, Anatoliy Bogdanov, and Aleksandr Subbotin]

[Text] Damascus, 18 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrived today in the Syrian Arab Republic [SAR] for a working visit. Damascus is the second stop on his trip to Middle Eastern countries in

order to complete preparations for the regional settlement conference that will open in Madrid, the Spanish capital, on 30 October. He had previously been to Israel. Visits to Jordan and Egypt also figure in the schedule for his six-day trip around the region.

At Damascus International Airport, Boris Pankin was met by his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar', and other officials. Replying to journalists' questions, the head of the Soviet foreign policy department said that he welcomed the opportunity that had been given him to visit friendly Syria and to have talks with its head, Hafiz al-Asad, and SAR Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Boris Pankin noted that bilateral relations and the prospects for their development would be discussed during the forthcoming conversations. He made it clear, moreover, that it was not an official visit, and that he would be having working meetings connected, primarily, with problems relating to a settlement in the Middle East and, more specifically, with problems relating to the completion of the preparations for, and holding of, a Middle East conference.

The leaders of Syria, as a future participant in the conference, have carried out a great deal of work and have displayed wisdom and far-sightedness and an even-handed approach toward solving the many complicated problems that stood in the way. We, too, had to do a lot of work, and it will probably be necessary to work even harder during the actual conference, the Soviet minister stressed. Especially, he added, since today Mr. James Baker and I, as representatives of the countries that have been invited to be cochairmen of the conference, have announced that we are starting to send out invitations to the conference on behalf of our presidents. It is expected to open on 30 October in Madrid. We consider that the whole process of a Middle East settlement must be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They lie at the heart of the questions that will be examined. As a country that voted for these resolutions, we stand for their unconditional implementation, and, as cochairmen of the conference, we seek to create conditions in which the sides, having sat down around the negotiating table, can find the ways and denouements of all the expected solutions in the spirit of these resolutions.

As for Syrian-Soviet relations, the USSR foreign minister said, I wish to say that they are the best of relations and have good prospects. I think that our cooperation with Syria during the forthcoming conference will also provide quite a few opportunities to discuss the questions that interest us and to extend our ties.

Answering a question from a TASS correspondent, SAR Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed the hope that the forthcoming conference would be a success. We think, he pointed out, that the Arab sides have done everything possible to assist the start of the Madrid peace forum at the end of this month. Its aim is the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. I imagine that all the participants in the conference, including its cochairmen, the United States and the

USSR, will act in concert to implement these resolutions. In the Syrian minister's opinion, that is still not the Israeli position. We hope, he said, that it will change at the conference and that an interpretation of these resolutions will be adopted that signifies an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, so that a fair and comprehensive peace is established in the region.

Holds Talks With Al-Asad

*LD1910170191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1610 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[Text] Damascus, 19 Oct (TASS)—Boris Pankin, USSR minister of foreign affairs, who is making a series of working visits to countries in the Near East region, held a conversation here today with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on a broad range of issues.

Attention was focused mainly on the Near East peace conference. The final stage of preparations for the Madrid meeting started today when invitations to its participants were sent out in the name of the USSR and the United States, as cochairmen of the conference. During the conversation it was stressed that several issues relating to the summoning of the conference can and must be resolved during the time before its opening. Serious problems face the conference itself, but there is no other way to examine them than around a conference table.

Both sides expressed interest in the further development of Soviet-Syrian links. The situation in the Soviet Union was touched on, and H. al-Asad showed a lively and amicable interest.

In conversation with Soviet journalists at the end of his conversation with the Syrian president, the USSR minister of foreign affairs expressed his satisfaction with the substantial content and the tone of their discussion.

Gives Damascus News Conference

*LD2010185691 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1433 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[By special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev, Anatoliy Bogdanov, and Aleksandr Subbotin]

[Excerpts] Damascus, 20 Oct (TASS)—Today, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin ended his two-day visit to Damascus, where he was received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The head of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs also held talks with his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

Speaking at a news conference before his departure from Damascus for Amman, Boris Pankin expressed satisfaction with the results of his working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic, particularly with the content of his conversation with President Al-Asad, which, according to him, was very friendly and sincere.

"We had an opportunity, the head of the Soviet foreign policy department said, to discuss the character of our present bilateral relations, the situation in the Near East, preparations for the peace conference, and we exchanged information on the situations in our countries." According to the Soviet minister, President Al-Asad watches the events in the USSR with deep interest.

During discussion on the situation in the region, B. Pankin noted, the sides stated that both the Soviet Union as a "co-sponsor" and Syria as a participant and a full member of the peace conference are satisfied with the opportunity to open the meeting in Madrid, which is a major step in the course of the development of the peace process. The sides noted the necessity of reaching specific results at the conference and stressed that many difficulties are yet to come. Moscow and Damascus expressed the hope that all the conference participants will have a constructive and serious approach to the problem of a settlement. "The core of all discussions, B. Pankin pointed out, will be the relevant UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338."

"We had constructive, long, and detailed talks with my counterpart Faruq al-Shar, who I can now call my friend," B. Pankin said. [passage omitted]

Syria was the second stage of the present six-day tour of a number of Near East states by the head of the Soviet diplomacy. During his stay in Damascus the Syrian side received an official invitation from the USSR and U.S. presidents to take part in the work of the conference. The reply to this invitation is expected to come within the next few days.

After his visit to Israel and Syria, Boris Pankin plans to hold talks with the leaders of Jordan and Egypt.

TASS Previews Visit to Jordan

LD1810135491 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1302 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—The focal point of the visit by USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin to Jordan will be the issue of convening a peace conference on the Near East. A member of staff of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported this in a conversation with a TASS correspondent. Having noted that the positions of the USSR and Jordan on the problem of a Near East settlement are close, and frequently even coincide, the representative of the Soviet diplomatic department expressed the hope that Boris Pankin's visit to this state will have a positive influence on the culminating stage in the work to convene a peace conference. The Soviet diplomat expressed optimism regarding the possibility of it being convened in October this year, having added that this conference will open up the way to a genuine settlement in the Near East. Soviet-Jordanian relations, the Soviet diplomat noted, have a wealth of experience

and are developing successfully in the political, economic, cultural, and scientific spheres, which corresponds to the interests of the peoples of this state. Moreover, he stressed, the Soviet and Jordanian sides have the desire, certain reserves, and possibilities for the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and Jordan.

In Jordan, Hails 'Historic Event'

LD2010143391 Moscow TASS in English
1354 GMT 20 Oct 91

[By correspondents Gennadiy Marunin and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Amman October 20 TASS—"We attach much importance to the visit to Jordan at a time when the Middle East is on the threshold of a historic event—a real chance has appeared for the establishment of peace and stability for all countries and peoples in the region," Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin told local and foreign journalists here today.

Pankin arrived in Amman today in a tour of Middle East countries. The purpose of the tour is to finalise preparations for a Middle East peace conference which is to open in Madrid on October 30.

The conference in Madrid "is called upon to mark the beginning of headway along the difficult but the only right way to peace in the region," Pankin said.

His evaluation is that "one of central places in the peace process belongs to Jordan". He spoke highly of the traditional striving of Jordan and its leadership to make a constructive contribution to the search for a realistic way out of years-long confrontation in the region. On the eve of the conference, such an approach acquires particular importance, Pankin emphasised.

The Soviet Foreign Minister voiced confidence that his meetings with Jordanian leaders would promote further coordination of the two countries' efforts so that "the Middle East peace conference would "justify the hopes set on it".

When greeting Pankin at the capital's airport, Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir stressed that the Jordanian leadership expected much from the Soviet foreign minister's visit.

The Jordanian foreign minister assessed highly the Soviet Union's continuous efforts towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The Soviet support for the cause of the Arabs, he said, is particularly important now, on the eve of the convocation of the peace conference. He voiced hope that this support would contribute to overcoming difficulties in the forthcoming long talks and to achieving overall success at the conference in Madrid.

Visit to Syria, Jordan Assessed

LD2010192191 Moscow All-Union Radio First
Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Boris Pankin, the USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs, is continuing his tour of the Middle East. Today he arrived in Jordan. Our special correspondent Viktor Levin reports from Amman:

The official program began with a meeting between King Hussayn and our minister. Later, Boris Pankin held talks with Abu Jabir, his Jordanian counterpart. At the center of their attention were the forthcoming opening of the peace conference on a Middle East settlement and bilateral relations. These same topics were also discussed at Pankin's talks with Hafiz al-Asad, the President of Syria, and Faruq al-Shar', the minister of foreign affairs.

In principle—as I believe one is able to conclude on the basis of what I know about the talks that have taken place—Damascus and Amman do not differ from each other in their approaches, even to the extent of the relatively short distance that separates the two capitals. They are in favor of participation in the fruitful work of the peace conference and of the development of relations with the Soviet Union.

But of course, there are nuances. Take the issue of the restoration of full-scale diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel. I will not say that the attitude toward this in Damascus was sharply negative. As we were told by Boris Pankin, during his conversation with him, President al-Asad did not even mention this fact, which ought to be taken as an indicator that he accepts this fact as appropriate.

But at a lower level it would appear that they wanted to let it be understood that there was some displeasure. What other interpretation, for example, could be given to the fact that when they arrived at the Sheraton Hotel, where the minister and the officials accompanying him were staying, Boris Dmitriyevich was told that the hotel had more spacious rooms than the ones he was being given, but that they were occupied. Boris Dmitriyevich paid no heed to this, and the arrow clearly missed its target—but it was fired.

In Jordan, the official attitude toward the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel was expressed immediately by al-Sharif, the Minister of Information, in the following words: We would like this step to promote the establishment of peace and good-neighborly relations between Israel and its neighbors, and to push Israel toward respect for international legality in its relations with others, especially the Palestinians. If one remembers what Pankin said immediately after the signing of the agreement on the restoration of diplomatic relations, it is easy to see that we would like exactly the same thing.

There is another nuance as far as bilateral relations are concerned. In this field, of course, Syria has closer and

deeper ties with us. President al-Asad—and once again I am quoting what was said by our minister—expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will continue the friendship line. This, too, we sincerely desire. As far as Jordan is concerned, I think the level of relations that has been achieved here is capable of serving as a reliable foundation for moving forward.

PNC Secretary General on Mideast Peace

LD2010213891 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Muhammad al-Subayh, secretary general of the Palestine National Council (PNC), date and place not given; from the "TV Inform" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Preparations are nearing completion for convening the Middle East peace conference. What is the position regarding the conference taken by the Palestinians, whose destiny in general terms lies at the heart of the Middle East crisis? An answer to this question is given by Muhammad al-Subayh, secretary general of the Palestine National Council.

[Al-Subayh] Our position was determined by the Palestine National Council at its recent session in Algiers. It gave the green light to the PLO Executive Committee for talks on the participation of Palestinians in the peace conference. It is true, one side's desire for peace is not enough. Israel continues to erect obstacles in the way of the peace process. Together with the Soviet Union, the United States, and a number of Arab states, we are striving to overcome the difficulties. We are ready for peace, and we don't intend to hinder the convocation of the conference.

[Correspondent] Do you advocate adherence to the principle of peace for land?

[Al-Subayh] This principle lies at the heart of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which we accept and approve of. President Bush also spoke of the exchange of peace for land when he advanced his initiative on the Middle East in March this year. As I understand it, the majority of Palestinians aspire to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but there are also extremists among them. An absolute majority of the Palestinian people want peace. Yes, of course, there are those who are opposed, but they are an insignificant minority. But in Israel there are still many extremists, opponents of a just settlement. They are the ones who are calling for new confiscations of land in the occupied territories. We still hope that wisdom, moreover on both sides, will triumph.

Jerusalem Interviews Moscow Radio's Prokofyev

TA1910093391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0805 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Interview with Dmitriy Prokofyev, Moscow Radio Moscow commentator, by Dalya Ya'iri, via telephone; Prokofyev is in Moscow and Ya'iri is in Jerusalem on 19 October—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ya'iri] Good morning and a good Sabbath to you, Dmitriy Prokofyev in Moscow.

[Prokofyev] Good morning and a good Sabbath.

[Ya'iri] One day after the announcement on the resumption of official diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, what do people in Moscow say about it?

[Prokofyev] Almost nothing. The reactions are very modest. There is very little commentary, and most of the newspapers have simply copied the neutral PRAVDA announcement.

[Ya'iri] Have the local radio or television reported it?

[Prokofyev] The same applies to these media as well. The problem is very simple. The agreement on economic cooperation among the republics was finally signed yesterday. That is apparently the only thing that interests the media and the public here, because the economic future of the republics depends on this, and the economic situation here naturally takes first priority.

[Ya'iri] Was there a return to the old commentaries for and against the renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel?

[Prokofyev] No, except that PRAVDA yesterday carried a commentary opposing the resumption of ties, and there were several reactions in favor of the move yesterday. Today the issue did not feature at all.

[Ya'iri] Meaning that it is of no interest to the public?

[Prokofyev] It seems that international issues are of no interest at the moment and will not trigger any interest in the foreseeable future.

[Ya'iri] There is a bit of a problem in these new-old Israeli-USSR relations, because in the past the USSR was one contiguous entity, whereas today there are the republics. What will be the significance of these relations in the current situation?

[Prokofyev] I do not know how long ties with the USSR will be relevant, let us say, because Boris Yeltsin has already announced that next month he will close most of the Soviet Union's offices [in Moscow]—a privilege he enjoys according to the agreement reached between him and Gorbachev—and that only three USSR ministries will remain: the Defense Ministry, the Atomic Power and Industry Ministry, and the Transportation Construction Ministry. That means that the Foreign Ministry's future is unclear.

[Ya'iri] What will happen to the agreements Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin concluded should the central institutions indeed be cut back?

[Prokofyev] Well, the positions of the Russian Federation and the Ukraine are well known. Russia has long demanded that relations with Israel be renewed and that the USSR's unbalanced Middle East policy change. Now, in the last few days before ties were renewed,

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed himself on a number of occasions in favor of resuming relations with Israel. The Ukraine, too, has recently been engaged in a process of rapprochement with Israel and the Western world. So I think the ties will improve between the republics that are not dragged into the whirlwind of Islamic fundamentalism and Israel as an inseparable part of the Western world.

[Ya'iri] Will it then be necessary to have consulates in each of them?

[Prokofyev] The current agreement among the republics is as follows: Initially, during the interim stage, all the republics will utilize the building used by the USSR Embassy. Only the staff, the diplomats, will change, which is to say that there will be representatives from all the republics that have interests in that specific state. No one knows yet what will happen in the next stage. It may depend on the economic situation—the ability of each republic to pay for an embassy building and maintain whatever size of diplomatic staff.

[Ya'iri] Thank you very much, Dmitriy Prokofyev.

[Prokofyev] You are quite welcome. Have a good Sabbath.

Early Diplomatic Ties With Israel Opposed

PM1810140391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Oct 91 p 4

["My Opinion" by correspondent Vladimir Belyakov: "We Should Take Care of Our Trump Cards"]

[Text] Cairo—Soviet Foreign Minister B. Pankin has begun his Near East tour. He will also be visiting Israel. The probable results of his visit include the resumption of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations.

B. Pankin said this a few days ago at a news conference in Moscow. He noted that an accord "in principle" was reached during his recent meeting in New York with Israeli Foreign Minister D. Levi to the effect that this step would be taken ahead of the Near East peace conference.

The Soviet Union broke off diplomatic relations with Israel 10 June 1967 on the sixth day of Israel's aggression against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. One can argue whether we acted rightly then. I personally think that we did, because this step helped put a stop to military operations.

But we went on to act rashly, I believe, because, as well as diplomatic relations, we broke off all other relations with Israel—political, economic, cultural, and humanitarian. For 20 years our only representatives in this country were Russian Orthodox clergymen.

Now all that is behind us. Over the last few years there has been a succession of Soviet delegations to Israel. Trade is developing. Meetings between the two states' foreign ministers have not caused a sensation for a long

time now. The USSR and Israel have exchanged consulates general. And that is fine, in my view. But I am sure that it is too early to restore diplomatic relations.

First, let me go to the heart of the matter. Israel still occupies a considerable proportion of the Arab territories captured in 1967 and has annexed East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights. If we restore diplomatic relations with Israel in that situation, we will thus be tacitly "swallowing" its categorical refusal to leave other people's lands and indirectly encouraging the continuation of this policy. It is obvious that this step will make a fair Near East settlement difficult and, what is more, will reduce respect for our policy in the world. I say "in the world," not in the United States and certain other Western countries.

There is also another side to the question. The Israelis have an extremely pathological reaction to the lack of diplomatic relations with the USSR. When reading Israeli newspapers and meeting Israeli journalists in Cairo, I have long since noticed that this question has become a kind of "obsession" for them. It should be exploited for the sake of peace in the Near East! We should not hand over this, our only trump card, "just like that" (because we still don't know what will come of the conference if it goes ahead), but make the resumption of diplomatic relations conditional upon real progress in settling the conflict.

Supporters of restoring diplomatic relations primarily use the argument that without this the way to a peace conference is barred. It is hard to agree with that. In 1973 the Soviet Union and the United States cochaired a Near East peace conference in Geneva, and there was no question of resuming diplomatic relations as a preliminary step.

Another argument "for" is that the absence of diplomatic relations prevents our influencing Israeli policy. Once again I cannot agree. There are, after all, regular high-level political contacts, and a minister's influence is, needless to say, greater than an ambassador's. It is quite difficult to imagine our being able to influence Israeli policy at all.

Finally, there is this argument: The current level of Soviet-Israeli relations necessitates an embassy. Once again that sounds unconvincing, because ties are developing splendidly without an embassy, and providing visas and defending citizens' interests is a matter for the consulates that already exist.

In short, I think it premature to resume diplomatic relations. The adverse consequences of this step will clearly outweigh the positive ones. If, of course, you look at them from the viewpoint of peace in the Near East and prestige for Soviet policy.

Foreign Ministry on Afghanistan, POW's

OW1810174391 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1634 GMT 18 Oct 91

["Diplomatic Panorama" report; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Soviet Union does not insist that Dr. Najibullah must step down from power during the transitional period and believes that he must make the choice himself. Spelling out Moscow's line, one of the high-ranking Soviet diplomats told DP [DIPLOMATIC PANORAMA] that the Soviet Union did not commit itself to persuade Dr. Najibullah to cede power to the mujahidin at the Soviet-U.S. talks. We tell the U.S. negotiators that if they believe that Dr. Najibullah must go, they should go to Kabul and negotiate the issue themselves.

The USSR intends to be faithful to the pledge it gave the U.S. to stop supplying weapons to Kabul that was formalized in an agreement with the U.S. The U.S., however, would like the USSR to stop military aid ahead of the schedule, and hints are dropped that if the USSR accepts these terms, Washington could take efforts toward getting Soviet POW's in Afghanistan released.

The Soviet side is of the opinion that the POW issue is purely humanitarian, and any linkage with a schedule in accordance with which aid to Kabul is to be stopped are hardly justified—even though, continued the diplomat, we realize that for the U.S., the effort would be no more than a goodwill gesture, and Washington's seeking to help with the Soviet POW's issue is more than lip service. Evidence of this have been Washington's recent contacts with Saudi Arabia.

Soviet diplomats are also striving to procure the release of the POW's. Active contacts are being maintained with Dr. Najibullah and Pakistani leaders. Mr. Pankin, Soviet foreign minister, raised the question of the Soviet POW's during his recent meeting with mujahidin in New York, and it will certainly be on the agenda of the upcoming Moscow talks with the "transitional government."

'Cautious Optimism' Over Afghanistan Noted

PM1810155191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
5 Oct 91 Union Edition p 5

[By V. Skosyrev: "Transitional Government Without Najibullah?"]

[Text] The chances of ending the military conflict in Afghanistan are increasing. At any rate, that is how observers at UN Headquarters interpret the results of the recent meeting between USSR Foreign Minister B. Pankin and a delegation of Afghan mujahidin. UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and his special representative for Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, are also actively involved in the peacemaking efforts. They are due to meet the mujahidin delegation 4 October.

What is the reason for the cautious optimism being voiced in New York regarding the prospects of an Afghan settlement? According to REUTER, since the failure of the August coup in Moscow, there have been important changes in the USSR's stance. It is believed that the Soviet Union is no longer insisting that President Najibullah be part of any transitional government that Afghanistan may have before elections are held. The USSR also does not intend to continue to prop up the Kabul regime with endless supplies of fuel, food, and weapons.

Diplomats in the United Nations, however, stress that Moscow has not made a final decision to sacrifice its protege and is not insisting that he leave Afghanistan. Moscow's main concern is the security of Soviet borders. It will be prepared to agree to any government in Kabul that is acceptable to the Afghan people and pursues a peaceful policy. However, the USSR will object to a government in Kabul led by rebel extremists.

This version of the results of the talks in New York was conveyed to us by foreign press agencies. We tried to verify it at the USSR Foreign Ministry. But we did not succeed. We were advised to get our explanations from B. Pankin himself, who was about to return to Moscow. Naturally, the editorial office could not delay publication, so it has printed the information it had when the newspaper was being published.

On the other hand, the Russian leadership's involvement in the Afghan problem is encouraging. Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Vice President A. Rutskoy has had a meeting with Afghan Prime Minister F. Khaliqyar; he has also announced the republic's intention to hold talks with Pakistan and Iran and make contact with the Afghan opposition. It is intended to hold a meeting with representatives of the mujahidin "transitional government" in mid-October. Admittedly, according to TASS, the opposition representatives with whom the talks will be held have not been named yet.

A. Rutskoy has expressed the hope that an agreement on an Afghan settlement will be reached as a result of these contacts. One component of this agreement must be an accord on the release of former Soviet military servicemen held prisoner in Afghanistan.

Pankin Meets Mothers of Afghan MIA's

*LD2010104591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2020 GMT 16 Oct 91*

[Text] Moscow, 16 Oct (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin today met a group of mothers and relatives of Soviet servicemen lost without trace in Afghanistan. R. Aushev, chairman of the committee on the affairs of internationalist soldiers attached to the USSR president, took part in the meeting. The conversation that took place was sincere and full of anxiety for the fate of Soviet people who found themselves in the hands of Afghan opposition. Boris Pankin spoke of the work carried out by the USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry on the search for

and freeing of Soviet prisoners of war. He stressed that the release of Soviet people is one of the priority directions of the ministry's activities. Everything possible is being done to resolve this humanitarian problem. The forthcoming negotiations with Afghan opposition in Moscow and contacts with other countries involved in Afghanistan's affairs will be used for these purposes. It was noted that agreements on Afghanistan between the USSR and the United States, announced on 13 September, opened up new possibilities for the constructive viewing of the issue of Soviet prisoners of war and for making progress in the peaceful settlement of the entire Afghan problem.

India-U.S. Ties No Effect on Soviet Ties

*BK1810071991 Moscow Radio Moscow in Hindi
1200 GMT 16 Oct 91*

[Vasant Georgiyev commentary]

[Text] In an interview to the OBSERVER magazine, Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao observed that the improvement in Indian-U.S. relations will not have any adverse impact on India's ties with the Soviet Union. Our commentator Vasant Georgiyev writes:

The normalization of relations between India and the United States is not surprising. It is rather fully in keeping with the current trend of international events. Establishment and development of new relationships on the basis of mutual understanding and trust is the characteristic feature of the present time. During the past few years, the U.S.-Soviet relations have witnessed a great deal of changes and improvement. The decades-old antagonism in Sino-Soviet relationship has come to an end, and the same can be said about the Sino-Indian relations. There are clear signs of normalization of relations between the Indochinese nations and member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Many more such examples can be cited here, which collectively take the form of a process that we call the process of radical improvement in the international atmosphere.

Removing the factors that used to cause tension in Indian-U.S. relations—whether they were matters relating to trade or the economic system or U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan—is but natural, and it can only be welcomed. But some articles published in some Western and Indian newspapers cautioned that the improvement in Indian-U.S. relations will lead to a downturn in the Indian-Soviet relationship. In his interview to the OBSERVER, Narasimha Rao categorically stated that the improvement in Indian-U.S. relations will not have any adverse effect on Indian-Soviet ties. It is not a mere pronouncement, because the Indian-Soviet relationship of friendship and cooperation has stood every test of time. Some time back, the two countries extended the term of their August 1971 treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation by another 20 years. It needs to be pointed out here that much of the pattern of the just

international order that we view today has been generated by and tried under the framework of the Indian-Soviet cooperation. In 1986, the Soviet Union and India signed the Delhi Declaration for nuclear-and-violence-free world—a world that will ensure development of normal bilateral and multilateral relationships among all countries.

East Europe

Statement on SFRY Issued With U.S., EC

LD1910153891 Moscow TASS in English
1523 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The Soviet Union, the United States, the European Community and its members expressed profound concern about continuing violence and bloodletting in Yugoslavia.

In a joint statement issued here today, they voiced the conviction that the ceasefire agreement is the only possible way to prevent the conflict from deteriorating and achieve a peaceful and fair settlement.

The USSR, the U.S. and the EC urged the presidents of the Yugoslav republics to reiterate their commitment to the peace process and unswervingly abide by the obligations already assumed.

The statement's signatories expressed anxiety over the fate of all Yugoslav peoples, the rights of all national minorities in Yugoslavia, and the future of the Balkan region and Europe as a whole. Continued hostilities in Croatia, they warned, threaten to spread the armed confrontation to other regions of Yugoslavia.

Expressing the common desire to facilitate an early and complete end to all military activities as an indispensable precondition for a settlement, the USSR, the United States and the EC condemned the use of force to iron out political disagreements or change existing international and domestic borders.

They said the approach to a settlement should be based on the CSCE principles on frontiers, the rights of minorities, and political pluralism, which should be respected and recognised by all Yugoslav sides.

The USSR and the U.S., the statement said, reaffirm their full support for the efforts of the EC and its members under the CSCE mandate to mediate a peaceful end to the Yugoslav crisis, in particular through a conference on Yugoslavia and a commission of arbitration established within its framework.

The USSR and the United States also voiced readiness to support restrictive measures taken by the EC to assist a successful outcome of the conference on Yugoslavia, and backed efforts by the U.N. secretary-general to help a peaceful settlement.

Commentary on Gorbachev SFRY Mediation Effort

LD1910082591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1222 GMT 15 Oct 91

[Vladimir Shelepin commentary]

[Text] [No dateline as received] The leaders of Serbia and Croatia arrive in Moscow today. In the afternoon USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev will meet Milosevic and Tudjman to discuss possible ways out of the impasse in which relations between Yugoslavia's largest republics find themselves.

Vladimir Shelepin, TASS international observer, writes: What will be the outcome of the current attempt to mediate in stopping the bloody war which has already taken thousands lives? Hopes for a settlement, raised after recurrent agreements reached through various mediators, have foundered too many times. In this case, however, this role was undertaken for the first time by the leader of a country which is traditionally close to southern Slavs and which is today going through no less difficult days owing to a sharp upsurge in nationalistic and centrifugal moods and actions.

Of course, the Yugoslav and Soviet federations differ in scale. Many political parameters, including the nature of the forces in power at the center and in the republics, do not coincide, either. The similarity of the situations is, however, striking: both here and there it is a matter of the collapse of federations which were brought together at one time with complete disregard for the natural national feelings and specific interests of the peoples.

Now a high price has to be paid for that. But our Balkan neighbors are paying more: in the former Soviet empire, thank God, only local battles are raging for the time being rather than an all-out combat involving almost the entire might of the federal army, as is the case in Yugoslavia. Mechanisms for putting out conflicts with a national coloring have already been tested in various areas of the USSR for several years. True, no crucial success has been achieved so far but our experience can be of use.

I do not know if M. Gorbachev will succeed in working out a magic "Yugoslav formula", as colleagues from the TANJUG hope. The main thing is to do everything possible to ensure that common sense prevails over emotions, which have reached an unprecedented temperature, and that hostility and mistrust between the conflicting sides subside.

This day in Moscow brings a new and somewhat unique chance for agreement, at least on points of departure, in order to move further with the help of the mechanisms of UN, CSCE, European Community and The Hague peace conference on Yugoslavia which have already been brought into action.

Bulgarian President Views Upcoming Visit*LD2110045891 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev is preparing to set off tomorrow on a visit to Moscow. Obviously, the situation in our country is among the questions that he will discuss here. This is how he saw it on the eve of his visit.

[Begin Zhelev recording in Bulgarian with superimposed Russian translation] Perestroika has turned out to be insufficient. It harbored the illusion that the system itself would be rebuilt in another way, without it being destroyed. And life has shown, both in Central Europe and in the countries of Eastern Europe, and now in the Soviet Union, that there can be no progress toward democracy unless the political and economic structures of the totalitarian system, of the entire system, with its mechanisms and principles, are destroyed. It is another question as to how the transition will take place because the transition from totalitarianism directly to democracy releases huge political, economic, and social forces that may cause society to explode and push it toward civil war. [end recording]

Romanian Efforts To Emigrate Cause Problems**Border Crossing Closed***LD1910172391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak
Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Oct 91*

[Text] The Porubnoye crossing point on the Soviet-Romanian border is temporarily closed to those who wish to leave on a personal visa. This decision by the Chernovtsy oblast executive committee was caused by the fact that the ecological situation around the crossing point has become more difficult. Presently there are hundreds of cars near the crossing point. Restrictions do not apply to organized tourist groups or to passengers on regular buses, as well as to those who are going abroad on business or because of some urgent family matters.

Romanians Asked To Leave*OW1810185091 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1741 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After over 100 Romanians who had come to Tallinn a week and a half ago failed to get entrance visas and permission to work in Finland from the embassy of that country, they submitted the similar request to the Estonian authorities. However, Estonia also refused to accept the applicants. During a meeting with the Romanians in Tallinn October 17 the city's Mayor Hardo Aasmae suggested that they leave either for Moscow or Kiev.

Attempt To Infiltrate Finland*OW1910184991 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1731 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Five Romanian citizens attempted on Friday [18 October] to illegally infiltrate into Finland via the custom checkpoint at Vyborg.

As IF's [INTERFAX's] reporter has learnt at the headquarters of the North-Western Department of the USSR Border Troops, three Romanians were detained by Soviet borderguards. The other two managed to break through into the Finnish border zone but were soon returned to Soviet territory.

There are over 250 Romanians in Vyborg now. Since October 12 they have been holding rallies and a hunger strike in the city center, pressing the demand that the Finnish authorities grant them entrance visas and the status of refugees.

In the meantime, the Vyborg Council has decided to expel the Romanians by force, unless they leave the city voluntarily within the next few days.

West Europe**Gorbachev, Germany's Voscherau View Assistance***LD1810195291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1817 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—Mikhail Gorbachev today received Henning Voscherau, chairman of the German Bundesrat and mayor of Hamburg. In a short, friendly conversation they exchanged opinions on events related to the August putsch, on prospects for economic transformations in the country after signing the economic agreement, and on the significance of this event for our relations with the West.

The president once again stressed Germany's prominent role in lending assistance to our country at a critical stage of its development. Particular stress was laid upon the need for the mass training of specialists and of entrepreneurial cadres for the market economy. The problem of nuclear power station safety and of ecological and financial provision for nuclear disarmament was mentioned.

Silayev Meets FRG Special Envoy*LD1910092191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1001 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[By correspondent Aleksandr Krolikov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—The extension of the Soviet-German agreement on the exchange of specialists is necessary. This was stressed today at a meeting between Ivan Silayev, head of the Committee for Operational Management of the National Economy, and

Horst Schirmer, FRG special envoy. It was decided to continue this form of cooperation, taking maximum account of the interests of the union republics.

Defense Ministry Group Arrives in Spain

*LD1810204391 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1912 GMT 15 Oct 91*

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct [TASS]—Representatives of the USSR Ministry of Defense arrived in Zaragoza today to assess information on the armed forces, and also plans for the deployment of basic arms systems and equipment in the 2d Armoured Brigade of Spain's armed forces, which is stationed in this city.

The request to conduct this assessment, in accordance with the provisions of the 1990 Vienna document on the negotiations on measures to build confidence and security, was made by the Soviet side to the government of Spain on 10 October.

Latin America & Caribbean

Soviet-Cuban Relations Assessed

*OW1810173291 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1634 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] This year may become the most dramatic for Soviet-Cuban trade. DP [DIPLOMATIC PANORAMA] learned from the USSR Ministry for Foreign Economic

Ties [as received] that schedules of deliveries have been disrupted on virtually all kinds of exports. Cuba has been particularly hard hit because of the virtually stopped Soviet food supplies including grain, which has led to a shortfall "of several hundred thousand tons" in the deliveries of Cuban sugar to the USSR.

Seeking to compensate for the losses, Cuba began to put part of the sugar intended for the USSR on the world market, thereby trying to earn hard currency to acquire the foodstuffs and other commodities being withheld by the USSR.

The deficit of Cuban sugar is a major problem for the USSR. According to one of the ministry's staffers, the world sugar market has quite a limited potential. The very fact of disrupted Soviet-Cuban ties creates a situation on the world market in which Moscow—which, same as Cuba, suffers from a shortage of hard currency—is at a great disadvantage.

The ministry expert was sceptical of the idea to buy sugar in Brazil that has been circulating in the Soviet business circles of late. According to him it is far from always that such solutions are good in economic terms.

Though the USSR is less interested in receiving Cuban produce than Cuba is in receiving Soviet, the need for sugar will prompt the sovereign countries that used to be the Union republics, to carry on bilateral cooperation, said the Soviet expert. The Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Ties has already begun to develop own contacts with Havana to find new forms for the development of ties, with a view, primarily, to cover the Soviet sugar market.

Political & Social

Economic Community Treaty Signed in Moscow

'Text' of Treaty

*LD1810205591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1940 GMT 18 Oct 91*

["The Treaty on Economic Community"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—The following is the text of the Treaty on Economic Community signed by the leaders of the eight republics in Moscow today:

Independent states, present and former subjects of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, regardless of their present status;

Expressing the desire of their people for political and economic sovereignty, enshrined in documents adopted by states' supreme legislative bodies, and for the protection of citizens' rights;

Willing to establish mutually beneficial economic relations between the states;

Striving for radical economic transformations and taking account of common problems faced by the states in emerging from crisis, in changing to a market economy, and in joining the world economy;

Recognizing the benefits of economic integration, common economic space, and the expedience of preserving economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and other relations, conclude the present Treaty on Economic Community.

Section I: Basic Principles

Article 1. The Economic Community of Independent States is establishing itself on the basis of the voluntary participation and equality of rights of all its members with the aims of forming a single market and of carrying out a coordinated economic policy as an indispensable condition for overcoming the crisis.

Article 2. Membership of the Economic Community entails the adoption by each independent state of the full range of obligations and the acquisition of all the rights envisaged in this treaty.

The states, members of the Economic Community, take as their starting point mutual economic responsibility for implementing this treaty and are to refrain from any steps which might pose a threat to implementing the treaty as a whole or of any of its individual clauses.

Article 3. Mutual relations between the Economic Community and states which have left the USSR and have not joined the Economic Community will be constructed on the basis of the generally accepted principles and norms of international law. Issues which are of common interest to the Economic Community and which demand

settlement will be resolved by means of a special agreement between the Economic Community and the relevant state which is to be concluded during a period not exceeding three months from the moment that this current treaty comes into force.

Article 4. A state, a member of the Economic Community, has the right to leave. It is obliged to notify the remaining members of the Economic Community of its intention to leave no less than twelve months prior to the event. Departure from the Economic Community is conditional upon the settlement of relations regarding all its obligations connected with membership of it in accordance with a special agreement.

Article 5. The states, members of the Economic Community, are in agreement on a rapprochement in their economic legislation and on carrying out a coordinated policy in the following areas:

- enterprise;
- goods and services market;
- transport, power engineering, information;
- monetary and banking system;
- finances, taxes, and prices;
- capital and securities market;
- labor market;
- customs regulations and tariffs;
- foreign economic relations and currency policy;
- state scientific and technical, investment, ecological, humanitarian, and other programs (including in eliminating the aftermath of natural disasters and catastrophes) of general interest to the Economic Community;
- standardization, patents, metrology, statistics, and accounting.

Article 6. The member states of the Economic Community undertake jointly not to permit unilateral, uncoordinated actions to divide property declared by them to be joint property.

The composition of the above-mentioned joint property is determined by a special agreement.

Article 7. Community institutes invested with the relevant powers will be set up for implementation by the member states of the Economic Community of a coordinated economic policy and of common measures for a way out of the crisis.

Article 8. This treaty is concluded for a period of three years. The member states will decide the question of prolonging, of changing this treaty or of concluding a new one no later than 12 months before the above-mentioned period expires.

Section II: Enterprise

Article 9. Member states of the Economic Community recognize that private ownership, freedom of enterprise, and competition form the basis of the economic rise. They create conditions which promote business activity and legally restrict interference of the state in the economic activity of the enterprises.

Article 10. A member state of the Economic Community pledges to guarantee the same legal regime for the economic activity carried out on its territory by natural and juridical persons of its own state, as well as all the other member states of the Economic Community. The conditions of the legal regime can be specified on the basis of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Article 11. Member states of the Economic Community pledge to pursue coordinated antimonopolistic policy and promote the development of competition within the framework of their united market.

During the transitional period, the member states of the Economic Community implement coordinated actions for regulating prices on products, put out by monopolist producers.

Section III: Movement of Goods and Services. Prices.

Article 12. Movement of goods and services on the territory of the states which belong to the Economic Community is implemented freely on the duty-free basis.

Import of goods from third states is subject to duties according to common external customs rates of the Economic Community.

Article 13. Trying to form a united market, member states of the Economic Community recognize inadmissibility of restrictions on the movement of goods and services and promise to lift them within an agreed period of time.

Article 14. The member states of the Economic Community are carrying out a coordinated policy of transitioning to free price formation. The members of the Economic Community use coordinated prices on the basis of a jointly drawn list of state output.

Section IV: Monetary and Banking System

Article 15. The member states of the Economic Community realize that to emerge from the crisis and to control inflation, the priority should be given to concerted actions in the field of monetary and credit policy.

Article 16. The member states of the Economic Community realize that it is necessary to preserve the ruble as a common currency of the single monetary system and agree to make an effort to strengthen it. It is acceptable for the member states of the Economic Community to introduce their national currencies, providing they fulfill the conditions which would exclude the possibility of doing harm to monetary system of the Economic Community. Conditions mentioned are determined by a special agreement between this state and the Economic Community.

Article 17. To work out and implement an effective monetary and credit policy guaranteeing the freezing of price rises and maintaining the rate of the ruble, the member states of the Economic Community establish, along the principles of a reserve system, the banking

union, including central (national and state) banks of the member states of the Economic Community, and set up an Interstate Issuing Bank attached to the Banking Union.

Article 18. Legal status and the order of setting up the managerial bodies in charge of the Banking Union will be determined by a special agreement.

The Banking Union's activity will be regulated by its statutes, which will be ratified by the Economic Community member states' supreme legislative bodies.

Prior to the adoption of the Banking Union statutes, administration of the banking system will be exercised by an interim board, formed on a professional basis by the USSR Gosbank and the central (national state) banks of the community member states.

Article 19. The Banking Union will be charged with the following functions:

- determining unified approaches to implementing monetary and credit policy and establishing quantitative parameters (quotas) on the operations of Banking Union members' central (national state) banks;
- determining interest rates for loans provided by Banking Union members' central (national state) banks to commercial banks;
- determining reserve requirements for commercial banks;
- organizing interbank transactions;
- regulating the ruble rate vis-a-vis other currencies;
- controlling that part of the gold and foreign currency reserves transferred to the Banking Union by the Economic Community member states;
- organizing the supply of cash in circulation, including the sale of bank notes and coins;
- and regulating the general rules covering commercial bank activity.

The Banking Union will set quotas for the amount of credit which Economic Community member states' central (national state) banks may provide to budget systems in 1992.

Directives issued by the Banking Union's administrative bodies will be binding on all Banking Union banks.

Article 20. In setting up a Banking Union, the Economic Community member states consider it necessary to determine in a special agreement the procedure for transferring to them and to states not members of the Economic Community the corresponding proportion of the former USSR state banking system's statutory, reserve, and other funds and its share of joint-stock capital in limited liability companies, deposits and the gold, diamond, and foreign exchange reserves.

Article 21. Economic Community member states will set up a Supreme Banking Inspectorate on the basis of equal representation, charging it with:
monitoring the observance of the Banking Union and Interstate Issuing Bank statutes;

hearing appeals from Economic Community members about infringements of their interests;
and annulling and suspending Banking Union decisions which contravene its statutes.

The Banking Union and Interstate Issuing Bank are obliged to submit to the Supreme Banking Inspectorate on demand all necessary documents and materials.

Supreme Banking Inspectorate decisions adopted within the limits of its jurisdiction shall be binding on the Banking Union and the Interstate Issuing Bank.

Section V: Finance and Taxes

Article 22. Economic Community member states will pursue a coordinated budgetary and taxation policy, which will envisage:

the agreed restriction of consolidated state budget deficits taking account of nonbudgetary funds and the setting of growth limits for the Economic Community member states' internal debt;

in the event of a state no longer being able to place its securities or the set limits being exceeded by one of several Economic Community member states, the excess amount will be deemed to constitute a debt repayable to the other members under agreed rules;

the unification of the principles of taxation and an agreed policy in the sphere of taxes affecting the interests of other Economic Community member states.

Article 23. Economic Community member states consider it necessary to conclude an agreement on dividing up and legally reordering the USSR internal debt as of the agreed date among the Economic Community member states and nonmember states and on the procedure for servicing in the future. Some of the debt could be made the general responsibility of the Economic Community member states. At the same time, an agreement will be concluded on distributing centralized credit resources among the states' banks. State internal debt will be determined by taking account of state budget indebtedness to the banks on the basis of price differentials for agricultural products on 1 January 1991. Economic Community member states will reaffirm the continuity of commitments made on the USSR's behalf to holders of deposits at the USSR Bank for Labor Savings and Credit to the Population (Sberbank), USSR state securities, USSR Sberbank certificates and insurance policies (bonds) issued by the USSR Main Administration for State Insurance.

Article 24. Economic Community member states will create an Economic Community budget to finance joint expenditure, including expenditure on the upkeep of Economic Community institutions.

The following special funds will be set up within the framework of the Economic Community budget:

a fund to service that part of USSR state internal debt devolving to the joint responsibility of the Economic Community member states;

a fund to service the USSR state foreign debt and the Economic Community foreign debt (where denominated in rubles);

a fund for emergency situations and the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters and catastrophes, such as Chernobyl, the Aral Sea, the Spitak earthquake, and others;

a targeted programs fund;

and a financial reserve.

The Economic Community budget's income will be drawn from its membership dues, determined in the form of fixed sums. The amount of these fixed dues and the procedure for establishing them will be determined by a special agreement among the Economic Community members. The Economic Community budget may not go into deficit. The Interstate Economic Committee will make quarterly reports on the execution of the budget to the council of heads of government of the Economic Community member states.

Article 25. Economic Community member states may establish nonbudgetary funds to finance targeted programs. Economic Community nonbudgetary funds may not go into deficit.

Article 26. Economic Community member states recognize the need to implement targeted programs to promote the development of certain regions and provide social support for their population. To this end, they establish a corresponding fund by diverting an agreed proportion of the national income (GNP) in current prices produced on their territory. This fund's activity will be regulated by a special agreement and by statutes.

Article 27. Economic Community member states agree that the regulation of the movement of monetary and other financial resources and the issue and circulation of securities within the framework of the Economic Community will be implemented in accordance with a special agreement not excluding the free movement of capital.

Section VI: Labor Market and Social Guarantees

Article 28. Economic Community member states will strive to implement the principle of free movement of labor on Economic Community member states' territory and will consistently create the conditions, including the establishment of a housing market.

Article 29. Economic Community member states will not permit discrimination against citizens on ethnic or other grounds as regards job offers, pay, or the provision of other working conditions and social guarantees.

Economic Community member states will mutually recognize workers' educational standards and qualifications confirmed by appropriate documents obtained from other Economic Community member states and will not require additional confirmation of the same for the acceptance to a job or course of study unless such a condition is binding on all.

Economic Community member states agree that their citizens will not require visas for travel within community territory.

Article 30. Economic Community member states will conclude special agreements to regulate migration processes and mutual commitments in the sphere of social welfare and pension provision for citizens of Economic Community member states.

Section VII: Foreign Economic Relations and Currency Policy

Article 31. Economic Community member states agree to coordinate foreign economic activity and currency policy.

Article 32. The Economic Community, as legal successor to all USSR foreign economic commitments and other countries' commitments to the USSR, guarantees their fulfillment. Each Economic Community member state reaffirms upon joining the Community its participation in the joint fulfillment of these commitments.

Economic Community members will establish a bank to be the legal successor of the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity and, through it, will conduct transactions relating to the repayment of foreign debt by the Economic Community and the receipt of debts from other countries.

The Economic Community undertakes to regulate all relations regarding foreign debts with each USSR component which has not become an Economic Community member.

Economic Community members consider it necessary to conclude a special agreement to determine as of an agreed date the proportion of total USSR foreign debt payments payable by each component of the former USSR and the amount due to each component in the shape of other countries' debts to the USSR.

These proportions will be used in calculations pertaining to the repayment of debts by states not wishing to join the treaty or withdrawing from the Economic Community. These states will conduct transactions with the Economic Community until their total debt is cleared.

In the event that a state not wishing to join the treaty, withdrawing from the Economic Community, or becoming a Community member reaches agreement with all creditors to reschedule its proportion of the total foreign debt, this proportion of the debt will be repayable by that state independently.

Article 33. The Economic Community will obtain new foreign loans on the basis of an agreed decision among all Economic Community member states.

An Economic Community member state is entitled to obtain foreign loans independently, with all the ensuing obligations as regards servicing and repayment of such loans.

The granting by the Economic Community or some of its member states of loans or other economic aid to foreign states will be governed by the same procedure.

Article 34. Economic Community member states, using a common monetary unit, agree that the community's immediate goal is internal ruble convertibility. They pledge to implement the necessary preparatory measures based on a coordinated program for the transition to internal ruble convertibility.

Article 35. Prior to the transition to internal ruble convertibility, Economic Community member states recognize the need to establish a unified procedure for accumulating foreign exchange revenue to service foreign debt.

Article 36. Economic Community member states will independently regulate foreign economic activity, quota setting, and the licensing of foreign economic operations within agreed quotas.

Article 37. Economic Community member states agree to retain a unified customs territory for the Economic Community and will implement a coordinated customs policy vis-a-vis third countries.

Questions on the procedure for setting and levying customs duties and export and import taxes for the relevant budgets will be decided by special agreement.

Article 38. Economic Community member states agree to common membership in the IMF, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, GATT, and other international economic organizations and reaffirm the validity of the corresponding applications made by the USSR. Economic Community member states can also be individual members of these organizations.

Article 39. Economic Community member states will pursue independent policies in the sphere of foreign investment and, if necessary, coordinate those policies. Economic Community member states will also coordinate their actions in the sphere of technical, consultative, and other kinds of aid from foreign states and international organizations.

Section VIII: Legal Regulation of Economic Activity

Article 40. In the Economic Community member states, the legislative acts of these states have supremacy. Physical and legal persons engaging in economic activity on the territory of these states will be guided by their legislation.

Article 41. During the term of the treaty, the Economic Community member states will agree to harmonize the norms of their economic legislation with a view to establishing the most favorable and equal conditions for enterprise and free trade throughout the Economic Community. They will pledge to ensure that their legislation corresponds to the norms of international law and Economic Community acts.

Article 42. In the event of this treaty, agreements (appended) to it, or normative acts adopted by Economic Community institutions within the limits of their jurisdiction establishing different rules from those contained in Economic Community member states' legislation, priority will be deemed to reside in the Economic Community treaty agreements and normative acts.

Article 43. During the period required for Economic Community legislation to regulate all aspects of economic activity, acts of USSR legislation will be temporarily applied to unregulated issues under an agreed procedure, provided such legislation does not contravene this treaty or other agreements.

Section IX: Economic Community Institutions

Article 44. The Economic Community's institutions will consist of a council of the heads of government of the Economic Community member states, an Interstate Economic Committee, the Banking Union, and an Economic Community Court of Arbitration; decisions adopted by these institutions within the limits of their jurisdiction are binding for Economic Community member states; Economic Community institutions will be staffed along strictly professional lines by representatives from the Economic Community member states.

Article 45. The Economic Community's supreme coordinating body will be the council of the heads of government of the Economic Community member states. The ministers of the member states of the Economic Community will hold regular meetings to address issues concerning the interaction and elaboration of the general policy on specific economic issues.

Article 46: The Interstate Economic Committee is the Economic Community's executive body. Within the limits of its jurisdiction, it will ensure that the objectives of the Economic Community, as defined by this treaty and the agreements and decisions of the Council of the Heads of Government of the Economic Community states, are resolved.

The Interstate Economic Committee will publish an annual economic report.

Article 47. The Interstate Economic Committee's work will be headed by its chairman.

The Interstate Economic Committee chairman will be recommended by the Council of the Heads of Government of the Economic Community member states and be appointed and relieved of his duties by the Council of the Heads of the Economic Community member states by a specific majority vote.

The Interstate Economic Committee chairman will submit a report on the state, structure, and estimates of the Committee's expenditure for endorsement by the Council of the Heads of Government of the Community member states.

Article 48. The Economic Community Court of Arbitration will be established to resolve disputes and apply economic sanctions with a view to ensuring the uniform implementation of this treaty throughout the territory of the Economic Community member states.

Section X: Agreements

Article 49. Economic relations among Economic Community member states will be regulated on the basis of this treaty and the agreements (appended) to it.

Article 50. Within no more than three months of the signing of this treaty and for the duration of the same, agreements will be concluded on the following issues:
on the status and powers of Economic Community institutions;

on the establishment of the Banking Union, including its statutes;

on the Economic Community's bank for foreign economic activity;

on the regulation of ownership rights in the Economic Community;

on the harmonization of Economic Community member states' legislation regulating economic activity;

on the regulation of migration processes;

on the establishment of a fund for regional development and social support for the population, including its states;

on the creation of non-budgetary funds to finance Economic Community targeted programs and the provisions in them;

on the settlement of states' reciprocal commitments upon withdrawal from the Economic Community;

on the movement of capital and securities;

on anti-monopoly policy with the framework of the Economic Community member states' unified market;

on reciprocal commitments in the sphere of pension provision and social welfare;

on scientific and technical cooperation;

on the patents service;

on the procedure and conditions governing the introduction of national currencies by Economic Community member states;

on the procedure for moving to the general principles of international economic relations with states which were members of the USSR and are not members of the Economic Community;

on the division and legal reordering of the USSR state internal debt and the procedure for servicing it in the future;

on the principles and mechanism for servicing the Economic Community's foreign debt;

on the procedure for resolving property and other disputes.

Article 51. Agreements shall be concluded for the duration of one year or another agreed term on the following issues:

on the Economic Community budget;

on an agreed policy in the sphere of taxes affecting the interests of Economic Community member states;

on customs policy and customs tariffs;
on the maximum level for Economic Community member states' consolidated budget deficits;
on prices and volumes of goods shipments under reciprocal (interstate) contracts and for general requirements;
on the setting of limits on the growth of the Economic Community member states' internal debt and the procedure for settling debt obligations;
on cooperation in the event of emergency situations.

Section XI: Associate Membership of the Economic Community

Article 52. With the consent of the Economic Community members, a state assuming only some of the obligations defined by this treaty may be granted the status of associate member of the Economic Community.

Article 53. The conditions for states to join the Economic Community as associate members shall be determined by members of the Economic Community.

Article 54. Mutual relations between the Economic Community and associate members shall be regulated in each individual instance by a special agreement envisaging, in particular, the resolution of issues relating to customs regulations, interstate deliveries and prices, and participation in shaping the Economic Community budget and non-budgetary funds.

Section XII: Final Provisions.

Article 55. Economic Community member states shall be obliged to resolve questions relating to the violation of this treaty before the Economic Community Court of Arbitration in accordance with the powers vested in it, as well as through negotiation.

Economic Community member states which commit blatant violations of their obligations under the treaty or supplementary agreements to it in specific spheres may be subject to the repercussions stipulated in the agreements, up to and including expulsion from the Economic Community.

Article 56. The Economic Community shall welcome membership applications from the states recognizing this treaty. The acceptance of new Economic Community members is to take place with the agreement of all its members.

Article 57. By decision of the Council of Heads of Government of the Economic Community states, certain states may be granted observer status.

Article 58. The treaty and the special agreements shall be subject to ratification by the Economic Community member states in accordance with their constitutions and shall come into force one month from the date of the ratification documents being lodged with the depositary state. Additional agreements shall not be subject to ratification and shall come into force from the moment of their signing.

Article 59. The treaty shall come into force after having been signed and ratified by no less than three states wishing to join the Economic Community. One copy in the Russian language has been signed on 18 October 1991 in the city of Moscow. This has been certified by the plenipotentiary representatives who have signed this treaty:

On behalf of the Republic of Armenia, L. Ter-Petrosyan
On behalf of the Republic of Belarus, S. Shushkevich
On behalf of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic, N. Nazarbayev
On behalf of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, A. Akayev
On behalf of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, B. Yeltsin
On behalf of the Republic of Tajikistan, A. Iskandarov
On behalf of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic, S. Niyazov
On behalf of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I. Karimov
The President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, M. Gorbachev

Gorbachev Introduces News Conference

LD1810161191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1520 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Speech by USSR President M.S. Gorbachev at signing of Economic Cooperation Treaty between republic leaders in the Kremlin—live]

[Text] As an introduction to the news conference I would like to say a couple of words. This is a tremendous event. It took us a long time to come this far. We have managed to overcome great difficulties. But in the final analysis, the fact that today, the major move, such as the signing of this treaty, has been made, shows that the sentiments of wanting, in the interests of all our peoples to live together, to tackle problems together, and to emerge together from the crisis on to the road of dynamic development, is very strong in society. This can be seen above all in the positions taken by the organs of supreme power and by the republican leaders.

I congratulate all my colleagues, all my old friends on this event. They have carried out tremendous work. The decisions they passed are perhaps the most important in their lives.

With this I would like to end my remarks. We agreed that I would say just a few words on behalf of everyone. We are now ready to take your questions.

Leaders Meet Press

LD1810172991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1522 GMT 18 Oct 91

[News conference by USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev; Kazakh President Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev; [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin; Uzbek President Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov;

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev; and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, with domestic and foreign correspondents at the Interrepublican Economic Treaty signing ceremony in the Kremlin—live]

[Text] [SMENA correspondent Grushadze] Esteemed presidents, allow me to ask Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev a somewhat abstract question. I observed you closely, Mikhail Sergeyevich, as you signed the treaty. What did you feel personally? Excuse me for the personal nature of this question, but it's very important to me.

[Gorbachev] I think my feelings aren't very much different from the feelings of my colleagues and your own feelings. What is taking place and has been taking place in the Georgiyevskiy Hall today, following immediately after or rather hard on what we lived through in August, represents, I think, a moment which enables each one of us to sense that it is not in vain that you devote your energies to this struggle to transform this country. In the final analysis, my feelings today are that we are moving, we have taken the first step, and we will stride firmly down this road of combining efforts and continuing reforms. So, as an individual and as a politician, I have a feeling of satisfaction. Speak up there. We can hardly hear you.

[IZVESTIYA correspondent Alimov] Mikhail Sergeyevich, what guarantees are there that what was signed today won't just remain a paper treaty? What further steps can follow on this treaty?

[Gorbachev] I'll ask my colleagues.

[Nazarbayev] I am very satisfied with the historic act carried out today. I think that our ship—and this is something we have been talking about at every congress—found itself in a storm, and it was rocking. Now, it is as though we felt firm soil under our feet. The core of the matter now is to fulfill all the points of the agreement. All the republics, their legislatures, and local soviets should finally have more responsibility than they ever did before, and they should understand that without creating a single economic space, single-handedly, we won't be able to get out of this crisis and won't be able to start creating new life for the people. After all, winter lies ahead. I think this agreement was awaited not only in our country but also throughout the world.

So, as the poet said, instead of perishing in solitude, we must hold each other's hands. I answer the question that was asked: From the text of the document that was published after the Alma-Ata conference, where all the major questions were decided—and there were minimal changes to that text—the major agreement was reached and initialled in Alma-Ata. I am very proud of this fact as a representative of my republic, of the people of Kazakhstan. The whole question is to implement all the articles of the document that was signed today. It is understood from the content of the document that the members of the Economic Community take on certain responsibilities. The document must be initialled and

laws and acts be adopted in the republics; if they contradict the rules established in the community, then laws and decrees of the community will have priority. That says it all.

[Correspondent] A question from the Russian Information Agency—NOVOSTI—for Boris Nikolayevich: Boris Nikolayevich, we know that recently—actually, in the last few days—some additions were made, maybe some alterations. How do you assess the agreement that has been reached? Will it really help improve the lives of our people?

[Yeltsin] First, I would like to point out that today is a very great event. The sovereign states today signed the foundation for new economic relations on a new basis, without the rigid center, when the leadership will mainly be constituted of interrepublican bodies. This will be especially important during the transition to market relations and especially important right now, when we have very hard and difficult winter months ahead of us. Therefore, although the path to reach this treaty was long, it is needed. However, at the same time, we must not feel euphoric, neither from the actual signing nor from the glass of champagne—we should not get dizzy—because ahead lie 18 or 20 special agreements which must be signed to fulfill this treaty. Ahead lies implementation of this treaty. This is the main thing because we have had frequent cases, quite a few instances, when both treaties and agreements have not been fulfilled. A food agreement signed in January this year can serve as an example. It was signed by all the republics. It was signed by Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, but only 40 percent of this agreement has been implemented. That is why implementation, control, and responsibility are the main things which now await us—in other words, we have gone quite a way, but ahead lie so many things which need to be done to make it work. Of course, if it works, it will help us stabilize the situation in Russia and in the country, at least by September or next autumn, and I think somehow that a process of improving people's lives and of increasing their level of life will begin. I believe so, although now we will have to go for unpopular measures for a couple of months. However, we must do it to push reforms speedily and vigorously: financial reform, economic reform, agrarian reform, and the reform of power structures, the reform of executive power from top to bottom, from the president to a chairman of a rayon executive committee.

[MTI, Hungarian television correspondent] A question for the USSR president: Mr. Gorbachev, do you think it is possible to count on the fact that other republics will join this circle? How can you explain the absence of Azerbaijan's representatives? Thank you.

[Gorbachev] I am sure that more republics will join the treaty. There was a question for me here about where the Ukraine is and why it has not appended its signature. I am confident that the Ukraine will accede to this. I am sure and have, on that account, assurances from the

leadership of Azerbaijan that they will join in this. The representatives here from Moldova came up to me just now. They asked to convey from President Snegur that they support this Economic Treaty. Do you know why I think this treaty will stay alive? Simply because other....[changes thought] There is no more reliable means of emerging from the present crisis situation. If one is to speak of a guarantee, a guarantee of implementing the Economic Treaty, then it consists, first and foremost, of the awareness by all the republics and all the states of the fact that we can only emerge from the present crisis situation together. Anyone who thinks that he will emerge on his own has simply erred and is misleading the working people of that particular republic. That must be said today so that other republics will also join the treaty. Representatives from our friends, from the Ukraine, are present here. Evidently, they will continue the work together with other republics. I am also prepared to participate in that—just as I have participated all this time—in that joint work, so that they should join without delay and without taking too much time. The Ukrainian comrades have raised objections, most of which have already been dealt with. Individual points remain. I think that they will be cleared up. The main thing is that it is necessary to start, to act, and not to waste time. People are right to say here, comrades, that we have wasted so much time that no time must be wasted now. It is necessary to interact. I am sure that the treaty will remain alive, although much work will still be required.

[“Aziya TV” correspondent] Mikhail Sergeyevich, please stay by the microphone. Kazakhstan’s new television company—Aziya TV—which I am representing here, has proclaimed as its main principle the idea of reconciliation and accord. I would like to ask you: Do you think 1992 will be the year of reconciliation and accord for all of us, when we will be able to reach a single view of things, and when we will finally start building that which we want—that is, normal life for people?

[Gorbachev] You remember when the Novo-Ogarevo process arose. If you remember when this occurred, then at precisely that time, when all of us in society sensed that if confrontation continues to grow further, if we go further along the course of fierce infighting, then we can get into the most onerous situation, beyond which simply catastrophic actions may follow. Then the following formula was advanced: consensus in society, reforms without delay, and cooperation with the outside world. I am sure that today also this formula has not lost its meaning. We need accord. The fact that there is such an important document, such a treaty on an economic community, indicates that this consensus is growing and will grow; I am sure because in society.... [changes thought] Perhaps not all politicians have yet perceived this, have not yet ceased, perhaps, their game, political games. Still, in connection with the election campaigns, they are playing on some sort of populism. However, just you look at the speeches which have already been uttered here: There are difficult times, difficult decisions,

unpopular measures ahead, to take the situation in hand. This is so. Without consensus, we will not be capable of controlling the situation. Consensus is needed in society; consensus is needed in the Union; consensus is needed in the economic union; consensus is needed everywhere; consensus is needed in the State Council and in every region. This is very important. If this is not the case, all our plans will suffer defeat, and the reforms will mark time. We hope that since we are taking such steps, this is meeting with understanding in society, but we hope that we will also be backed up in implementing these difficult decisions which we will make.

[All-Union Television and Radio Broadcasting Company correspondent] Esteemed USSR president, esteemed leaders of the Union of Sovereign Republics: Now that the treaty has been signed, it must be ratified in the republics. Of course, when it is ratified is a matter for the republics. Nevertheless, what deadlines are you reckoning on? After all, time is very expensive. Answer, please.

[Karimov] The dates of treaty ratification are determined, first, by the mood, the wish, and the aspiration with which we have been signing the treaty today. I am convinced that there was no one among the leaders of the republics who, while signing the treaty today, did not bear in mind the opinion of the deputies and the opinion of his people who stand behind him. Therefore, I would like to say—first, on my own behalf—that ratification of the treaty, in my view, must take place as quickly as possible, because, as Boris Nikolayevich put it here today and as Mikhail Sergeyevich put it, time is pressing, and we cannot shelve this issue.

[Turkmen Television correspondent] I have a question for you. Boris Nikolayevich. There has been quite a lot of talk lately, that, allegedly, the developed North is feeding the backward South. Well, a lot can be said on this point. I have a question for you: From the point of view of the agreement that has been signed, what will the principles be according to which the relations between the North and the South will have to be built? If possible, I would like the leaders of the southern republics—Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenia—to speak their minds, as well.

[Yeltsin] First, we are following the path of bilateral agreements. For instance, it was actually today that we agreed to sign an agreement with Uzbekistan on 26 October. We will also fix the precise dates—since the documents are practically ready—of signing bilateral treaties with Tajikistan and Turkmenia, as well. One of the major advantages of this treaty is that it is based on the fact that all are equal—the North, the South, the East, and the West—all are equal. They are equal, sovereign states with equal rights. Relations will be built accordingly.

[Akayev] I would like, first, to agree that the treaty that we have just signed is, indeed, historic, since it has no likes in the history of our country. Of course, the treaty is a result

of a compromise between the sovereign republics, but I think that this is a democratic compromise.

This is a manifestation of common sense and of the healthy political will of sovereign republics. I would like to support Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's view. This year we also signed a bilateral treaty between the Republic of Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, and at the time that treaty was being signed Boris Nikolayevich uttered those momentous words, which he has repeated here, that we view this treaty as one between partners enjoying equal rights. We have become convinced that that is indeed the case. Many months have passed, and that treaty is being implemented, both on our side and on that of the Russian Federation, with a great sense of responsibility and has gone a long way toward helping hold our economic position at our current level. Otherwise, there might well have been a greater—I would say—a slump in production in all branches of our republic's economy. I am profoundly convinced that the treaty which we have just signed also envisages all those involved, all the members of the Economic Community, as partners enjoying equal rights. I am convinced that that is how it will turn out. I am also convinced that this treaty will enable us to get through this winter, this winter of 1991-92, which we have been viewing with alarm. I would also like to add my voice to that of those who have noted that the treaty also has a political aspect. In this I support what was said by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the effect that this treaty represents a desire on the part of the republics for good-neighborliness and cooperation, and this might provide a start to integration on a new base, on a new footing. Thank you for your attention.

[Gorbachev] I believe Islam Abduganiyevich has something else to add on this matter.

[Karimov] There is a hidden agenda to the question being asked. Therefore, in addressing all the journalists here, I want to state that there is no foundation to it. We are equal states and republics, and no one can make us quarrel with Russia. I am convinced of this and want to avail myself of this moment and this favorable opportunity to state that no forces exist which can make Russia quarrel with Uzbekistan.

["News From Ukraine" correspondent Bulatov] A question for Comrade Yeltsin and Comrade Silayev; I represent News From Ukraine, and my name is Bulatov: Could you tell me please, if the Ukraine does not agree to accede to the treaty, what steps might follow on the part of the Russian central government? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Nevertheless, we will hope that common sense will prevail and that the Ukraine will sign the treaty. If it does not sign, then it can become an associate member. If it does not wish to become an associate member, it can be an observer. There is provision for this in the treaty. In such an event, our relations will be based, first, on our bilateral treaties and agreements. A Ukraine-Russia draft agreement for 1992 has now been

drawn up with the Ukraine, and in the very near future—say, within a maximum period of from 10 days to a fortnight—we will sign this agreement, and all our relations will be constructed in line with this agreement.

[Gorbachev] I would like to give the floor to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman in connection with this question.

[Ukrainian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman] Esteemed comrades, Kostyantyn Ivanovich Masyk, Ukrainian first deputy prime minister, and I are today representing the Ukraine solely with the aim of ensuring that the opinion should not be given that the Ukraine has slammed the door and does not wish to consider this treaty on Economic Community. In no way do we set this aim for ourselves. We worked very closely on this draft. As has already been stressed here today, we put forward very many criticisms and proposals, and there was one reserved opinion. What is this reserved opinion? We consider that such an Economic Community is extremely essential, but it should be concluded after we have concluded bilateral treaty relations with Russia and with all the other republics and states which were members of the USSR. This work has begun. Today, a treaty has been signed with Uzbekistan. Six draft treaties are almost complete. As Boris Nikolayevich just said, there are only three criticisms remaining out of the almost 200 which we raised with Belarus, Kazakhstan, and with a number of other republics. Therefore, we are firmly convinced that we will be a member of the Economic Community and without doubt we will join it and sign after these individual items of the agreement have been considered as well as the bilateral treaties with the states which have signed today and which we are sure will sign this treaty in the future.

[TIME correspondent] A question for President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin: I think that many Western countries awaited the signing of this treaty as a sign that you could cooperate economically at the Union level. I would like to hear from you what specific steps you now expect from the Western countries and whether you think that we should now deal with the new interrepublican bodies or with the separate republics.

[Gorbachev] You know, I must say that our partners in the West, within the framework of the Soviet Union's cooperation with the G-7 and within the framework of the Soviet Union's cooperation with the EEC, know. However, they are not the only ones who know. We informed Japan and other countries outside Europe and outside G-7 of our proposals. Therefore, these projects are well known. They include, first, cooperation in resolving urgent problems connected with food and medicine. They also include cooperation in the financial sphere, and there are also concrete problems here of which you know. I do not want to specify them here. Finally, the broadest sphere of cooperation, which will begin today and which will develop in the long term, is

the implementation of major projects in power engineering, rail transport, in creating a market infrastructure, modernizing agriculture, the food industry, light industry, and so forth, and of course, everything which will help us prepare society for the work, for the operation of the national economy under market conditions or in the transition to the market. Second, our partners know who they are dealing with now. There is the State Council, uniting the leaders of the Union and the republics, and there is also now the interrepublican, the interstate, Economic Committee under that treaty. So, everything is clear. I think that today's signing clarifies greatly the situation and will give a boost to the earliest solution of practical questions.

[TIME correspondent] I would like to hear from Boris Nikolayevich, too, if I may.

[Yeltsin] We see, speaking with the leaders of the states not only of the seven countries but also with others, that a waiting game was being played, that they would not define their position regarding mutual relations with the republics and states or with the Union until this economic treaty was signed. That was spoken of recently in a conversation with U.S. President Bush. He stated directly that, of course, that Economic Treaty was necessary, and then we would have a quite definite position. The treaty has been signed, and now there must be action. With whom should one deal? With the center or with the states? When meeting with these leaders we say: with both one and the other. However, that is not the same center which there was before; there is not such a rigid center. Nevertheless, it is an interrepublican body in which there are representatives of all states and republics. They will effect a strategy at some kind of macrolevel, and all concrete economic affairs will be conducted via, of course, the states and republics. When I met Nakayama—that is, Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama—the day before yesterday, we agreed clearly that a commission would be set up in which there would be representatives, mainly of ours, but also of the Interrepublican Economic Committee. We will decide where the \$2.5 billion which they say they can now invest in our joint programs should be directed.

[SOYUZ correspondent] I have a fairly difficult question, I think, for Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The Interrepublican Economic Agreement was signed today, but how will it affect interethnic relations? For instance, will this agreement help you settle your relations with the neighboring republic?

[Ter-Petrosyan] First, I wish simply to explain why Armenia signed this treaty. We signed it because we consider that, in general, this treaty ushers in qualitatively new relations between the republics. First, the republics are acting as independent states, truly equal states. This has already been mentioned. Second, and most important, unlike all previous economic programs over the last 74 years—or however many years it is—political considerations are for the first time taking second place to purely economic considerations in this

treaty—in other words, fundamental processes of society's development are at long last being freed from ideological constraints, from ideological restrictions and are following their logical course. That is why we agreed to sign this treaty.

As for the question which you asked—the extent to which it will help settle interethnic relations—I think that this is one step toward accord. If the republics can succeed in reaching accord on economic problems, then I am convinced that they will also succeed in reaching similar accord on political problems.

[SOYUZ correspondent] Thank you.

[Gorbachev] Thank you, and goodbye.

Eleven Republics To Cooperate on Education

LD1910112191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0600 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Eleven former union republics, except the Transcaucasian republics and Turkmenia, have come out in favor of the creation of a single space in the sphere of education.

Participants in the conference of representatives of education ministries of the sovereign republics and states which were part of the USSR have signed a protocol on their intention to cooperate in the sphere of economic activity in the system of education.

Shaposhnikov Reportedly Resigns Defense Post

Up Against 'Determined Resistance'

PM1810120091 Stockholm SVENSKA
DAGBLADET in Swedish 17 Oct 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Soviet Minister Has Tendered Resignation"]

[Text] The Soviet Union's new defense minister, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, has tendered his resignation after a fierce power struggle in the Defense Ministry.

According to information given to SVENSKA DAGBLADET by persons in the Defense Ministry and members of the Russian legislature, Shaposhnikov made personal contact on 15 October with Mikhail Gorbachev and submitted his resignation to the Soviet president in writing. Since the failed coup in Moscow on 19 August there has been a fierce internal power struggle in the Defense Ministry, SVENSKA DAGBLADET has been told.

Shaposhnikov, a radical who wants rapid change, has come up against determined resistance from conservative military forces. Part of his task has been to break down large sections of the power centers of a compact military structure. After only a few days in office Shaposhnikov, who succeeded jailed putschist Dmitriy

Yazov, attracted criticism after saying that 80 percent of officers and high-ranking officials in the Defense Ministry would be forced out.

Further on Resignation

PM1810145491 Stockholm SVENSKA
DAGBLADET in Swedish 17 Oct 91 p 4

[Report by Sune Olofson: "The Soviet Defense Minister Wants To Resign"]

[Excerpt] Moscow—According to information from persons in the Defense Ministry and members of the Russian parliament, on 14 and 15 October the situation at the Defense Ministry became so acute that Shaposhnikov personally contacted President Gorbachev to inform him in writing that he wants to leave his post.

However, in response to a question from SVENSKA DAGBLADET's Moscow correspondent, Torgny Hin-nemo, Major Ivan Skrylnik of the Defense Ministry's press department gave the following reply yesterday afternoon:

"This is completely new to me. This is the first time I have heard that Shaposhnikov is supposed to have tendered his resignation."

After only a few days as defense minister, Shaposhnikov, who succeeded jailed putschist Dmitriy Yazov, was the target of harsh criticism from high-ranking officers and Defense Ministry officials. Shaposhnikov announced publicly that the cleanup after the coup means that he will have to dismiss 80 percent of the officers and high-ranking Defense Ministry officials. When tough pressure was put on Shaposhnikov, he tried to tone down his announcement and said that really not that many people needed to go.

When Shaposhnikov decided that the Defense Ministry Political Directorate, which controls and gives directives to the political officers attached to individual units, should immediately cease operating, the criticism of him intensified. The decision meant that overnight several hundred political officers at the ministry found themselves without a job. The directorate, which was headed by Colonel General Nikolay Shlyaga, was directly subordinate to the CPSU Central Committee and was considered to be a real power factor in the old system under Yazov. Instead, Shaposhnikov appointed a special commission with the task of reforming the military structure.

But quite soon he became aware that the people who made up the commission were not in favor of reforms, but were against them. Several republics have made requests that they be allowed to form their own defense forces and ministries—wishes that the commission has not respected.

Shaposhnikov, who was formerly commander of the Soviet Air Force, is a very popular person among the officers and soldiers who think the Soviet Union needs reform and changes. For the first time the Defense

Ministry is thought to have been given a minister with a "human face" and many officers were impressed by his openness. For example, Shaposhnikov has appeared, in his capacity as minister, in civilian clothes at important meetings—behavior that is considered unusual in this country, weighed down as it is by military traditions.

According to SVENSKA DAGBLADET's sources, Shaposhnikov has probably also underestimated the strength of the conservative forces at the ministry and within the military complex—forces that are now doing everything to sabotage the reforms. After the coup Shaposhnikov made it public that he was leaving the Communist Party—something that irritated the old generals. According to SVENSKA DAGBLADET's sources, several influential generals have gone away or taken sick leave to signal their displeasure with Shaposhnikov.

One of the Defense Ministry's big problems has been looking after the tens of thousands of officers who have become unemployed and homeless as a result of the withdrawal of troops from Europe and of cuts in Soviet defenses. In a decree President Yeltsin has promised social guarantees for the Russian officers who have been forced to leave the Baltic states, but there is nevertheless profound concern and widespread discontent because of the fall in the officers' living conditions.

Yesterday it remained unclear how Gorbachev is dealing with Shaposhnikov's request. At the Defense Ministry people take the view that Shaposhnikov's resignation could be his way of seeking support for further reforms and measures to ensure a complete cleanup after the coup.

A more serious interpretation of Shaposhnikov's resignation is that he fears a new military coup and wants in this way to urge Mikhail Gorbachev to see to it that the president himself checks out the situation. A step that Gorbachev could take is to hand over Shaposhnikov's resignation to the Soviet State Council for consideration.

Reportage on First Congress of Soviet Germans

Gorbachev Issues Appeal

LD1810165691 Moscow TASS in English
1615 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—"The growing emigration of Soviet Germans arouses anxiety and concern. Among its main reasons is the failure to resolve the issue of statehood. I stand for a reasonable and immediate solution of the problem. I am sure that such a solution will be found by joint efforts," reads an appeal by President Mikhail Gorbachev to the first Congress of Soviet Germans, which opened here today.

The congress is expected to discuss recreating the autonomous republic of Germans in the Volga region. The spreading sovereignty of Union republics and many

peoples' wish to acquire real self-determination have put the issue of restoring a German autonomy, liquidated during the Stalin rule, on the agenda.

Participants believe that the failure to resolve the issue boosts emigration of ethnic Germans from the Soviet Union.

Soviet-Based Germans Praised

OW1810154291 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1126 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presidential adviser Aleksandr Yakovlev has described the first Congress of Ethnic Germans that opened in Moscow on Friday [18 October] as "another step towards undoing historical injustice." Mr. Yakovlev read out a message of greeting from the Soviet president, in which Mikhail Gorbachev praised Soviet-based Germans, specifically those in the Autonomous German Republic on the Volga (that existed until Stalin banned it in 1941) for their weighty contribution to the economic, scientific and cultural development of Russia and the Soviet Union. The message expressed presidential concern over the large-scale exit of Germans from the USSR to the FRG. Mr. Gorbachev described himself as a "proponent of the idea of solving the problem of German statehood without delay" and wished the 3-day congress every success.

The head of the organizing committee Boris Rauschenbach sees it as the congress's chief objective to preserve Soviet-based Germans as a distinct ethnic group embarking upon the road to ethnic rebirth. He believes the only way to attain this goal is to ensure the restoration of German statehood by establishing German districts and guaranteeing social protection to Germans living elsewhere in the country.

On Friday morning, some 40 people (obviously non-Germans) from Kazakhstan and the Volga region staged a demonstration outside the movie theater Oktyabr where the German congress is taking place. They were holding placards that read: "Bonn, mind your own business," "Russians shall be full-fledged citizens in Russia!", "No restoration of German republic on the Volga!", etc.

Four-Stage Program Announced

LD1910101691 Moscow TASS in English
0958 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—A congress of Soviet Germans opened in Moscow on Friday [18 October].

[The] congress, which is being attended by about 900 delegates from various Soviet republics, will discuss proposals to restore a republic of Soviet Germans.

Boris Raushenbakh, head of the congress organising committee, said the republic should be restored in the Volga region with political autonomy to preserve Soviet Germans's culture, language and traditions.

Leonid Prokopyev, head of the Russian State Committee for ethnic affairs, announced a four-stage programme for the restoration of Soviet Germans's statehood.

He said the Russian leadership will try to find a just solution to the problems of Soviet Germans. After passing a law, Russia will launch housing and industrial construction to create a developed infrastructure on the territory of the former republic.

He said the most difficult problem will be to establish the republics borders. Prokopyev stressed, however, Russia will protect the interests of all ethnic groups on this territory.

Horst Haffenschmidt, German Interior Ministry state secretary, said the German Government is ready to provide material and technological assistance in restoring the republic. He said his country is interested in solving this problem as soon as possible, since Germany cannot provide all Soviet emigrants with jobs, apartments and social benefits.

About 300,000 Soviet people emigrated to Germany over the past three years and 110,000 in 1991.

Chairman Issues Ultimatum

LD2010214391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The Congress of USSR Germans has ended in Moscow. According to our correspondent Margarita Lange, bodies for the defense of the interests of Russia's Germans have been elected. In particular this is a council for the rehabilitation of Germans of the Union of sovereign states, consisting of 116 people. The chairman of the council is Genrikh Grout. He is in favor of taking the road of ultimatums to the Government of Russia. This was confirmed at his news conference after the end of the Congress. Grout told journalists that if the question of the creation of a republic in the Volga region is not resolved before the start of the new year, the Council will set about organizing the emigration of Germans from the Soviet Union.

Congress Ends, No Decision on Autonomy

LD2010220591 Moscow TASS in English
2136 GMT 20 Oct 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow October 20 TASS— The Congress of Soviet Germans ended here today without adopting the decision on the main item on its agenda—the restoration of territorial autonomy of Soviet Germans in the Volga area where it had existed before 1941.

The concept of the gradual solution of the problem proposed by the Russian State Nationality Affairs Committee was not approved by the radical majority at the congress.

The congress adopted a resolution demanding that Russia's leadership promulgate a regulatory enactment on the restoration of the autonomy ahead of the adoption of the Russian Constitution.

Other documents adopted by the congress include a resolution on the emigration policy. It says that if the deadline for political and territorial rehabilitation, set by the Russian parliament, is not met, the Soviet Germans will establish a committee for emigration and re-emigration.

The congress, rather poorly organized, failed to uphold ideas of unification. It was characterized by clashes between the two main trends in the movement of Soviet Germans—the radical and the constructive—which made the congress as a whole largely un-productive.

The congress's constructive faction issued a statement in support of the efforts by the leadership of Russia and Germany aimed at solving problems of Soviet Germans and characterized by a comprehensive approach. Success can be achieved only by joint efforts, taking into account the interests of the present population of the region seen as territory of the future German republic.

As the problem of restoring the German republic awaits solution, Germans continue to emigrate from Russia. More than 110,000 former Soviet Germans have left the country this year.

Former CPSU Official Commits Suicide

*LD1810123191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—the press center of the Moscow Main Directorate of Internal Affairs has announced that Dmitriy Lisovlik, a former senior official at the CPSU Central Committee International Department, who has recently been out of work, has committed suicide. He jumped from his 12th floor apartment at Chaykina street at 2130 on Thursday [17 October]. An investigation is to be held in order to ascertain what has caused the death of the 54-year-old party functionary. Nikolay Kruchina, manager of affairs of the CPSU Central Committee, and Georgiy Pavlov, former manager of affairs of the CPSU Central Committee, also recently committed suicide.

Accusations in Recent Publication Refuted

*PM2110100991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Oct 91 p2*

[Albert Petrushov commentary under the "Boomerang" rubric: "Triumph Carried Too Far; Do Not Be Deceived, Russian Reader!"]

[Text] Reading articles about the communist press (mainly PRAVDA, of course) in several publications, you do not know what should astonish you most: the cynicism of their authors (I think the editors take a more reasonable stand), who feel it has absolutely no place in society, or the fact that they have become so arrogant and lost all sense of moderation in their triumph.

In this sense, the article by Leonid Lagin—published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on 5 October under the exotically mysterious headline "Why the Cats are Miaowing in a Dark Room"—is typical. Written in classic prosecutor style, the article is directly addressed to the Russian Soviet Federated Soviet Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, suggesting to it that it is time to finish off the communist press once and for all or to ensure that it takes a back seat in the country's sociopolitical life. It proposes specific methods. In the tough option, the Russian Government is asked point-blank: Surely it has more pressing problems than the financing of loss-making communist publications?

The revelation is offered for general comment: Clearly, not simply in order to jeer at the CPSU, which no longer exists, or to take another kick at one's colleagues. No, the author has deeper concerns. He is worried about the "meager Russian budget," from which communist newspapers have allegedly "begun to help themselves to hefty subsidies." A tender-hearted citizen, Lagin is concerned about the fate of the poor taxpayer, who is burdened by the journalists of former party publications—"over-fed cats."

It seems that, thanks to the artificially low cost of paper and communication services, the communist press has robbed the paper-making sector and reduced postal workers to such a state that one might as well revive the institution of mailcoaches. Moreover, Lagin believes that, while delighting their subscribers with foreign news, CPSU Central Committee publications have also robbed the petroleum industry and other exporters by taking away hard currency the latter have earned.

That is enough "chilling" horror stories, however. It is time to turn to arguments and facts. PRAVDA has already said that, since 1945 alone, it has given the party more than 700 million rubles [R] in profit. It would be naive, to put it mildly, to claim that this vast revenue has been generated on cheap paper and communication services. In the stagnation years, prices were equally low for everyone. PRAVDA has constantly written in postal workers' defense and raised the problems of developing and modernizing the paper-making sector. PRAVDA's profits have come from its millions of copies, which are not only circulated among communists, as is well known. As far as party publishing houses are concerned, they have brought out masses of inexpensive books in addition to newspapers and journals. People have not been required to show a party membership card in order to buy these books. By subsidizing the book, newspaper, and journal industry, the party has given all readers social assistance.

PRAVDA first found itself in a difficult financial position three years ago, when circulation fell and the cost of paper and communication services rose sharply. The latter affected all publications, incidentally. But PRAVDA has found itself in a critical situation—which we make no attempt to hide—because of a number of legally unfounded decisions taken in respect of CPSU property. The seizure of party accounts has deprived PRAVDA of the subsidy provided for by a CPSU Central Committee decision. It is no secret that our subscription price is considerably lower than our production and distribution costs. Last year, we reported that the CPSU Central Committee had pledged to make up the difference. In other words, a subsidy would be forthcoming from the party budget. That was only fair. Essentially, some of the profits taken from us in the past began to be returned to us. But the suspension of CPSU activity deprived the editorial office of these funds from the party budget in one stroke. That is why our losses will stand at R23.5 million by the end of the year. If party accounts were reopened, we could make good our losses. PRAVDA has an absolute right to at least some of the profits earned by generations of PRAVDA staff being returned to it.

Incidentally, the labor collective of the PRAVDA Publishing House has the same right to some of its revenue being returned. It would be appropriate to make the following point in this connection. In his attempt to cause conflict between the collectives of the newspaper and the publishing house, the author fails to mention that the print workers have not really gained anything from the publishing house being illegally transferred to the jurisdiction of the Russian Ministry of the Press and Mass Media. They used to transfer their profits to the party budget—now they transfer the same amount to the ministry. The question is: Why? It is not very hard to guess. After all, it is as clear as day that ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (the publication of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet) is financed by the state budget. So one would like to ask: Who is helping himself to hefty subsidies from the meager Russian budget? Who is burdening the poor taxpayer? It would be interesting to find out exactly how much money is being allocated from the Russian budget for the publication of this loss-making newspaper with so many pretensions. By what right does this year-old newspaper lay claim to the PRAVDA building? To be honest, if it is really necessary to share editorial offices, it should be done on the basis of the "laws" of the market economy. If you want to live better, you have to pay the rent.

Now a few words about downright lies. Lugin writes without any hesitation that PRAVDA maintains no less than 150 passenger vehicles. If he is talking about the newspaper, the author is clearly muddled. It has never had such a vast number of vehicles. Our local correspondents are now without transport altogether. The author is also wrong about the number of PRAVDA correspondents' centers in various parts of the world. There are not more than 50, as ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA claims, but

half that amount. Moving on to the subject of hard currency, PRAVDA staff do not just "take" it—they buy it for rubles in the State Bank. The conclusion? The Russian reader is not just being disoriented—he is being blatantly deceived.

In conclusion about the "over-fed cats," I would like to ask Lugin some direct questions: "Leonid, do you have your own dacha? Your own car? A Japanese television and video system? Finally, do you have a savings bank account? Or several perhaps?" If you do not have any of this, then we are on the same rung of the social ladder. We are both proletarians of intellectual labor. So why should we fall out? We would do better to combine our efforts and channel them into defending people like ourselves. After all, there are millions of people like us who earn their own living. We journalists, who have the opportunity to work creatively, thanks to the good attitude of our readers and subscribers, should do our utmost to ensure that the transition to new economic relations does not cast masses of ordinary people into poverty and debt.

Poll Shows Hopes on Rise After Thwarted Coup

OW2110080591 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0723 GMT 21 Oct 91

[From the "Viewpoint" program; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The events following the thwarted state coup of August 19 to 21, give rise for hopes for the country's better future in 46 per cent of the population. This is clear from an opinion poll held in September by the National Public Opinion Studies Centre. The poll involved 2,075 respondents from all regions of the USSR, the agency Data reports. The Ukraine and the Russian Federation show much more optimism than other regions (52 and 51 per cent, respectively). The feeling of fear fills the hearts of 17 per cent of the country's population: that of regret - 10 per cent and that of joy - 8 per cent. Ten per cent of those polled said that the recent events did not interest them. The rest of the respondents found it difficult to give a definite answer. Sixty-four per cent of the respondents believe that the worst times are still ahead. Twenty-two per cent are convinced that the country is experiencing the most serious difficulties over its history. The worst is a thing of the past, said 5 per cent of the respondents. The rest of them did not give any answer.

The possible error stood at 3 per cent.

What Future Is in Store for Russia?

This question figured in the same opinion poll. Russia will play the leading role along the republics, said 32 per cent of the respondents.

Seventeen per cent of those polled said that Russia would become a truly democratic state: 13 per cent of the respondents believe that it will evolve into a new empire:

12 per cent think it will split into several republics and 7 per cent - that it will isolate itself from the world.

The rest of the respondents found it difficult to answer the question.

TASS Carries Press Review

19 Oct

LD1910073291 Moscow TASS in English
0652 GMT 19 Oct 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The Soviet press today gives prominence to reports about the Economic Cooperation Treaty signed in the Kremlin on October 18th by the leaders of eight sovereign republics.

The accord, signed by Federal President Mikhail Gorbachev as well as the leaders of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan, aims to lay down the groundwork for common efforts by all republics to steer the country out of crisis.

PRAVDA comments that the document, "even in its present, imperfect form, really opens the door a little for all of us to a normal life". RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA notes, for its part, that "the nation has entered a new historical phase in its development".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has this comment: "Everything is now clear for our states. As Gorbachev has said, the centre has the state council and the inter-state economic committee. The West has where to invest its billions of dollars. (Nursultan—TASS) Nazarbayev has the hope for the supremacy of the laws of the commonwealth, while (Boris—TASS) Yeltsin, for stabilisation by the autumn of 1992 and all together, for seeing the Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldavia at least as the treaty's associate members. All together also denied that the developed north feeds the backward south. (Levon—TASS) Ter-Petrosyan declared that political considerations in relations among republics are giving way to purely economic ones." The newspaper joins Yeltsin's wish that "the final glass of champagne not send (the signatories)—TASS) heads swimming".

The press announces that the new federal Supreme Soviet legislature will convene for a joint meeting of the Council of Republics and the Council of the Union on October 21 in Moscow.

Reporting that new deputies are already being registered in the Kremlin, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA quips: "Won't the procedure turn out the registration of the unemployed?"

The Sakhalin governor, Professor Valentin Fyodorov, argues in PRAVDA that the surrender of the Kurile islands to Japan "will cause gravest economic damage to Russia".

Russian Central Bank Chairman Georgiy Matyukhin says in an interview with SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA that the Baltics and the Ukraine, which intend to introduce separate national currencies, "will only harm themselves and not take long to realise this".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA describes the situation in Perm, the Ural mountains, where the seemingly insoluble problem of vodka shortages threatens to touch off a senseless and ruthless riot involving even pensioners, mothers of many children, and ordinarily disciplined factory workers.

Air Force Major-General Gennadiy Legkhikh, Air Defence Forces's chief of logistics, says in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that problems of supplying the Army with everything needed have assumed the same priority as those of maintaining battle worthiness. He admits that the Armed Forces "are little prepared as they go into a market", explaining that "experience, knowledge and infrastructure are lacking".

The same newspapers reports a continuing visit by Soviet fighter pilots to Sweden, where they were able to fly Swedish planes, while their Swedish counterparts piloted MiG-29's.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, PRAVDA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA report without commentary the restoration of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations on October 18 after a 24-year break.

A PRAVDA article by Valentina Nikiforova acknowledges that the Communist Party in the past was overloaded with blatant careerists, money-grubbers and rogues, but claims that "people are now looking to communists to show initiative and count on their support in protecting their vital rights at a watershed moment in our history".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA offers a more detailed account than other dailies of the suicide of Dmitriy Lisovolik, a staffer of the Communist Party Central Committee's International Department. It notes persistent rumours that the recent chain of deaths among senior party apparatchiks is linked to the party's behind-the-scenes financial activities.

The same newspaper reports mysterious ultra-high frequency emissions in some Moscow flats, which are so strong that they pose a health hazard. The paper says that it will pass all material collected when researching the story on to the KGB, Interior Ministry and prosecutor's office on October 21.

21 Oct

LD2110071791 Moscow TASS in English
0644 GMT 21 Oct 91

["PRAVDA Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 21 TASS—Today's PRAVDA opens up with a commentary on the signing of an

Economic Cooperation Treaty by eight sovereign republics in Moscow on October 18.

Analyst Aleksandr Chernyak emphasises that the signing of the treaty "marks the beginning of the emergence of a new state". The chief merit of the document signed, he writes, is "its democratism, and provisions for the equality of republics and respect for their sovereignty". At present, "there is no other, more reliable way to get out of the crisis situation," the commentary points out.

Another important topic highlighted by the newspaper is the opening of the first session of a newly-elected central parliament in the Kremlin today. The session's tentative agenda, apart from organisational matters, includes a report by President Mikhail Gorbachev "on the political and economic situation in the country".

The parliament is also expected to discuss the reorganisation of all-Union state administration bodies and measures for a concerted carrying out of economic reforms and coordination of social policy and to reconsider a number of provisions of the constitution and legislative acts of the USSR.

Another article about the central parliament session expresses apprehensions that the presence of a large number of people's deputies of republican level in the parliament chambers "will hinder the parliament's work due to the danger of clashes on the basis of localist aspirations".

Moreover, it is not ruled out that "the role of the central legislative body may be reduced to the minimum at the time of the rapidly increasing weight of the executive authority and mounting separatism in a number of republics".

"Yet another misfortune has been added to all our woes—a crisis of parliamentarism," writes USSR People's Deputies Yuriy Golik.

He believes that "the consequences of the crisis are fraught with a tremendous disruptive potential", since "statehood is breaking up" and there is no confidence that the USSR Supreme Soviet will be able to work on October 21. The deputy sees a way out of this situation in the parliament's gradual transition to the "status of a coordinating centre of the legislative activities" of republics.

This is also the subject of yet another signed article expressing the opinion that the new central parliament may become a free, open and democratic assembly "for the mutual understanding of all the peoples of the motherland".

The author of the article considers it necessary that from the very outset of the work of the council of republics and the council of the Union "their organisation and functioning should be based on universal civilised principles of interparliamentary structures" so as to form "the first prerequisites of new relationships between republics—the subjects of the former USSR."

"The Chechens have got tired of waiting" is the headline of an interview with Djohar Dudayev, chairman of the executive committee of the united congress of the Chechen people. PRAVDA refers to Dudayev as the only person wielding real power in the Chechen-Ingush republic now.

"Our goal is to rid the people of the fear of ethnic or religious strife", to create a "democratic state with equal rights for everyone, irrespective of nationality, creed or political convictions", Dudarev told PRAVDA.

He said he intends to resolve all issues peacefully and that "the volunteer corps has been disbanded. Weapons are being handed over for storage and registered".

The newspaper announces that President Zhelyu Zhelev leaves Sofia for Moscow today. He was interviewed by PRAVDA's own correspondent in Bulgaria.

The newspaper runs a political portrait of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by PRAVDA's Cairo correspondent Vladimir Belyakov who has repeatedly met the PLO leader.

Pointing out the unlawfulness of the occupation of Palestinian lands by Israel, the correspondent regards as quite justified the fact that "'Arafat's estimates of world events are specific". Events are evaluated by the PLO leader "only from the viewpoint of whether they bring nearer or push away the prospect of the gaining of legitimate national rights by the Palestinian people". At the same time the correspondent emphasises that "'Arafat never pushes away an extended hand unless there is a dagger in it".

Economic

Data Give 'No Grounds for Optimism'

LD1810215691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1910 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Viktor Yenko commentary]

[Text] Official data have been released in the Soviet Union about the state of the country's economy in the first nine months of the year. Unfortunately the data give no ground for optimism, writes our news analyst, Viktor Yenko. He makes the following points:

Compared with the same period last year, practically all indices are worse. The GNP fell by 12 percent; the [word indistinct] income was down by 13 percent; labor efficiency dropped by 12 percent; industrial output and power production were reduced. There were short supplies for the population with food stuffs. Total grain harvest this year was about 160 million tonnes, which is a quarter less than last year. So there are the symptoms of a very deep economic crisis. Specialists and scholars assume that the lowest point is yet to be reached.

Economists believe that the full collapse may take place if physical output goes down by 20 percent.

These figures and words apparently sound as a disaster to the Western ear. They are of little solace for the Soviet people who can regularly freely buy only bread. But even our people who are used to all sorts of shortages are beginning to lose patience, which is shown by reports about Moscow and from other cities of the country.

Speaking on television, Russia's president, Boris Yeltsin has voiced the hope that the situation would begin changing for the better next summer or next autumn. It is hard to say how well justified the hope is. Neither the country nor Russia has a large-scale economic program yet to clearly define the prospects and a path and timetable for making progress.

Whereas scholars and politicians have been competing in eloquence, the position of the population has kept worsening. In Russian and countryside structures a great effort is made worthy of a better application to find out what is more important—the economy or politics. It is simply impossible to sever the two notions and even less so to oppose one to the other.

All hopes are now pinned on the Treaty for an Economic Community. Many experts in this country and abroad believe the treaty will become the basis on which the first steps will be taken toward a healthy market economy and normal relations between the republics of the broken up Union. Of course, the situation in the country will not change right after the ink is dry on the document signed by the republics. But following the first practical steps it is necessary to have further concrete actions to stabilize the economy and take it out of the crisis. Democracy that has triumphed in this country has no more time for a slow start and empty talk. Games in politics played by would-be politicians at the countrywide, republican and intra-republican levels can bring back a totalitarian system. Apparently realizing this, President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russia's President Boris Yeltsin are talking about the need of radical, though unpopular, measures for moving to a market economy. This will be the best politics for the time being because the people do not wish a return to the past.

Experts Discuss Economic Prospects for 1992

OW2110043091 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0121 GMT 21 Oct 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] How the Soviet economy will fare next year will depend both on the progress, if any, of economic reforms in the USSR and the efficiency of cooperation between the republics, says Gennadiy Kuranov, an expert of a Moscow think-tank, named Macroecon.

SCENARIO ONE: ECONOMIC DECLINE FINDS A FLOOR

An optimistic scenario for 1992 may become reality if the republics, first of all Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan, manage to prevent the disintegration of their economic ties.

In accordance with this scenario, while they are moving toward a market economy, the republics will coordinate their policies as regards monetary circulation, taxes and Western aid.

A mass privatisation of state property and the development of private business must not wreak havoc with production or lead to the collapse of the state sector.

Each pursuing own economic interests, the republics will, hopefully, join forces to keep the energy sector and the strategic industries running smoothly.

Under this scenario, the decline of industrial production and investment activities will slow even if the Union and republican budgets continue to run up big deficits and the money press [as received] continues to flood the country with rubles. The overall industrial production will not dip more than 3 to 5% from this year's level.

OIL PRODUCTION. If investment in the oil industry keeps stable and foreign companies are attracted to help with putting back into production some 1/3 of the currently idle oil wells, oil production will not fall below 480 million tons [as received] (553 million tons in 1990), and oil exports will fall to 35 million tons (108.6 million tons in 1990). Coal production will keep at 600 million tons per annum (710 million in 1990), and gas output, at 750 billion cubic metres (815 billion in 1990).

After a nose dive this year, agriculture may liven up because of the development of individual farming.

Soviet export will fall another 15 to 20%, and import, 25 to 30%, as compared with a 38% fall in Soviet foreign trade over the nine months of this year as compared with the same period in 1990. If the USSR wins a rescheduling of its foreign debts and obtains more credits, the fall of import may be smaller than expected.

In case price liberalisation is controlled, the growth of wages continues to be restrained in such a way as to compensate for no more than 60 to 80% of the price rise, and privatisation proceeds in a balanced manner, inflation may keep at the 1991 level. The expected transition to an internally convertible ruble will alter the existing price structure: products of mining and of the enterprises that use imported materials will come to command far higher prices than today.

Next year's projected 7 to 8% drop in national income appears moderate as compared with the 15% decline in 1991. Still, real living standards will continue to decline and the economy, to implode.

SCENARIO TWO: UNCONTROLLED FREE FALL

But if even some of the still existing strategic economic ties are severed, for example, those between Russia, this country's largest republic in economic terms, and the Ukraine, the second-largest one, the economic decline may develop into a veritable free fall, says Macroecon's forecast. Social tension will rise, prices will soar uncontrollably, and Western aid will shrink. In accordance with this gloom-and-doom scenario, national income may drop at least 17 to 20% and industrial production, 12 to 14% from this year's level, and a deeper decline may invite the collapse of the entire economic system.

A drop in investment and the reduction of inputs in the oil industry, compounded by the ongoing deterioration of the oil well quality, will lead to a drop in oil production to 460 million tons, including 420 million tons in Russia. Production will decline in the following strategic industries: steel—12 to 14%
chemistry and petrochemicals—9 to 10%
lumber—7%
engineering—14 to 16%

Price liberalisation will lead to the closure of a number of loss-making enterprises in the coal industry, steel, engineering and consumer industry, which is going to alter the macroeconomic structure.

Given the continuing breakdown of traditional Soviet forms of farming (i.e., collective and state-owned farms), production may fall 8 to 10% from this year's level. Food bottlenecks will send prices soaring and erode the savings of the majority of the population.

Real investments will drop 30% or more, on top of this year's roughly 33% fall in total investment, adjusted for price growth.

With the ongoing deterioration of the strategic industries, a shortage of defense sector to a good use, the year 1992 is unlikely to see any signs for the better in the technological state of the economy.

What's more, the economic potential may be in jeopardy of a further backslide—clearly a recipe for a long-drawn-out crisis.

'Audit Chamber' Analysis of Budget Shortfalls

LD2110091291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak
Network in Russian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Experts from the USSR Audit Chamber [kontrol'naya palata] have completed an analysis of the work of the country's finance and budgetary system for the first nine months of the current year. It is noted that local authorities failed to fulfil their financial commitments toward the republics and the republics in turn failed to remit money to the Union budget. As a result, in the first nine months the Union budget deficit amounted to nearly 84.5 billion rubles instead of the 26.7 billion sanctioned for the current year.

Funds provided for by law under the republics' economic agreement also failed to be remitted to the All-Union Nonbudgetary Stabilization Fund, the United Fund for Social Support to Population and the USSR Pension Fund. Thus, the overall total deficit exceeded 120 billion rubles.

Ryzhkov Denies Independent CPSU Gold Sales

LD1910111791 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1014 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 19 Oct (TASS)—Nikolay Ryzhkov, the former head of the USSR Government, has rejected the claims by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, a leading Soviet economist, that in 1990 alone he had sold 500 tonnes of gold abroad. He stated that in actual fact a decision had been taken only to sell 250 tonnes. In this connection the country's gold reserves on 1 January 1990 stood at 784 tonnes.

In an interview in today's MOSKOVSKIY KMSOSMO-LETS Nikolay Ryzhkov said that the main purchaser of Soviet gold had been Switzerland and that Japan had also purchased some.

Answering a question on whether the CPSU Central Committee had opportunities for the independent sale of gold abroad, the former head of the government categorically ruled this out, adding, "at least, while I occupied the premiership".

Concerning the foreign debt, Nikolay Ryzhkov said that in 1986 the USSR debt in freely convertible currency had been \$27 billion, and last year toward the end of his time in office it was \$35 billion. (At present independent Soviet experts estimate that it amounts to \$60 billion to \$70 billion—TASS).

The former chairman of the Council of Ministers considers that the country has a future only if a unified single economic space is retained. He views the future pessimistically. "I can distinctly see the terrible shadow of Yugoslavia", he said.

Scientific

Progress M-10 Shut Off After Link-Up Failure

LD1910081891 Moscow TASS in English
0724 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] October 19 TASS—Mission Control Centre. A Soviet cargo spacecraft carrying supplies for an orbiting station failed to link up with the platform after its approach programme shut off automatically, but is in controlled flight and technicians are working out a way to deal with the problem.

It cropped up when the 'Progress M-10' freighter, launched on October 17, was maneuvering, as programmed, to get closer to the Mir station. Telemetry data and trajectory measurements showed that all on-board systems were operating as normal and everything was

going according to plan. But then the approach mode was automatically switched off 150 metres from the platform.

'Progress M-10' is now in controlled autonomous flight. The Mission Control Centre said it will announce its further programme of work with the spacecraft later.

'Intersputnik' Undertakes Commercial Ventures

LD2010170991 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1608 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By Kaztag correspondent Vladimir Cherkizov]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 18 Oct (TASS)—The main result of the 20th session of "Intersputnik", which ended in the Republic's capital today, was the adoption of a decision on greater commercialization of this international space communications organization.

Previously, satellites were launched free of charge or for a token payment. Now the time has come to put space cooperation onto a market footing. According to specialists, this way of organizing affairs promises considerable benefits for our country. Even the design and development of "Express," the new generation of communications satellites, will be financed by the organization's participants themselves. They will receive the right to acquire full ownership or to lease them. The range of services provided by our ground stations is being widened considerably.

The new policy has been approved not only by the countries participating in "Intersputnik", for it is also receiving international support. Evidence of this is the accession of the organization's 16th member, Syria, and a memorandum of cooperation with the "Intelsat" satellite communications consortium. Germany has declared its desire to become the GDR's heir in "Intersputnik". An accord has also been reached with U.S. firms to develop a joint television and telephone bridge between America and Europe.

NASA, ESA Cited as Space Program Models

927Q00034 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 8 Oct 91 p 2

[Article by V. Postyshev, candidate of legal sciences, member of the International Institute of Space Law: "Whose Grass Is It Outside the Porthole? Russia May Be Left Without a Space Launch Complex, and Kazakhstan Without Rockets"]

[Text] The time has come to ponder where funds for space exploration come from and to whom the Mir orbital station Baykonur and the satellite and rocket plants belong.

These quite ordinary economic and legal issues are now being resolved at the highest political level under the influence of interests which are not "space-related" at all. For now, it is hard to expect that Moldova and

Transcaucasia will take part in space programs. Belarus and the Central Asian republics would not mind satellite communications either, but they will hardly be able to finance space science and industry.

What is at issue? Soviet space exploration embraces about 2,000 enterprises and organizations. It accounts for 1.5 percent of the gross national product. More than 10 million people (including support personnel and family members) work in space science and industry.

How is such a facility to be split up? A great many problems will develop if it is done on "the principle of soil," as is now the case with enterprises under Union jurisdiction. First, the key components of space systems, the satellites, are located in space beyond the limits of state jurisdiction. This is what international law says. Second, the space infrastructure was created as an all-Union element. It cannot be sliced into pieces. The Baykonur space launch complex will be of no use if Russia refuses to launch its satellites from it due to emerging national partitions. It will be hard for the Ukraine to continue work on the efficient Zenit booster rocket if it is not granted free access to the launch pad in Kazakhstan. All space programs are impossible without use of the Flight Control Center located in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]. A promising draft to set up a space launch complex for Soviet booster rockets in Australia attracted 40 organizations from various regions of the country in the capacity of co-executors. Third, as a united subject of international law, the USSR has a number of substantive rights and obligations following from interstate agreements on space. The Union is represented in United Nations organs engaging in space issues and in international space organizations. It has been allocated five orbital positions and radio frequencies for satellite communications. The USSR is responsible for space operations and possible losses to third countries.

Nonetheless the republics are separating from one another. Upon whom will the space umbrella, once erected through joint efforts, come down? The answer is as clear as can be: on Russia. Close to 90 percent of the enterprises of the aerospace complex are located in its territory. Virtually all of them are very weak economically. However, a giant size (up to 80,000 employees) and overblown secrecy are characteristic of them. Space NPO's [scientific production associations] are absolutely not suited for a market economy. Wages alone in the sector are subsidized in the amount of 1.5 billion rubles annually.

Under current circumstances, it would be feasible to set up a Russian space agency—a special organ in the system of RSFSR executive power responsible for space exploration, and at the Union level—a coordination council for implementing space programs supported by the republics on a contractual basis. In other words, the transformation of the USSR into a complex state structure necessitates a two-tier system of managing space exploration: in the RSFSR on the pattern of the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in the United States, and at the Union level on the pattern of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Both models have their advantages. Strictness in the pursuit of national interests is characteristic of NASA. The latter makes it possible to draw an extensive circle of scientific and industrial organizations from various countries into implementing space programs. Such programs are financed 70 percent or more by foreign participants. The ESA is a well-tuned form for cooperation among sovereign states in the area of space exploration.

How will space cooperation develop? The republics will obviously join programs which they find sufficiently attractive. Who will take the first step along this path? There is nobody else to do it but Russia. Otherwise, it can expect additional millions of unemployed and the loss of the elite cadre personnel and its place among the leading scientific-technical powers.

If properly managed, space science and industry yield tremendous effect. The funds invested in them are recouped within five to seven years. Space communications are six times cheaper than regular cable communications. The research of the natural wealth of the earth and the sea from space generates seven rubles in returns per every ruble of outlays. On the scale of a country such as the RSFSR space systems are the only reasonable means for TV and radio broadcasting, metrological, geodetic, and cartographic services. Profitable production in space of unique materials for radioelectronics, medicine, and other sectors is very near. At present more than 120 countries of the world invest funds in space exploration. An international space market is developing fast. Its annual volume exceeds \$50 billion. According to various estimates, by the year 2000 it will come to between \$100 and \$200 billion.

The stars are becoming more and more distant as the former USSR divides up space assets.

Military

Shaposhnikov on Interrepublican Army Issues

LD1910220191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1935 GMT 19 Oct 91

["Viewpoint" program: interview with USSR Defense Minister Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov by program presented Aleksandr Barkhatov; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Barkhatov] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, your last meeting with representatives, with authorized representatives of the republics, ended on a cheerful, an optimistic note. What has changed since then?

[Shaposhnikov] In some republics, particularly Azerbaijan and the Ukraine, some kind of other centrifugal forces and features have arisen which, on the whole, do not fit into the general context of what you and I spoke

of at our last meeting. The fact of the matter is that Azerbaijan has raised clearly the question of, well, arming an army of around 30,000 with our weapons which are on the territory of Azerbaijan and which are in the possession of Soviet Army personnel. I think that dividing weapons in this way will only lead to destructive features and you know that, well, Armenia is nearby. You also know what sort of relations Azerbaijan has with Armenia [words indistinct].

[Barkhatov] That's to say, it could lead to an extremely explosive situation.

[Shaposhnikov] [Words indistinct] of course it could. We cannot agree to that. In the second place, the Ukraine, well, has begun to divide up the men. They say that all the men who are in the Ukraine belong to the Ukrainian army and that means it is their army. That is not right, either.

[Barkhatov] How far do such demands from the republics bear the character of an ultimatum?

[Shaposhnikov] You know, they do not so much bear the character of an ultimatum as, well, are being implemented on the spur of the moment. Well, that's to say, the first provision was that, well, all armed formations on the territory of the republic are its property then, well, a decree appears under which the district newspaper goes over to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense of the Ukraine and so on and so forth.

[Barkhatov] And it is leading all to the same goal?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, a whole host of such unilateral, uncoordinated decrees, and so on and so forth. Yet at the same time, I think that all should understand me correctly. I am the USSR defense minister. If any republic wants to act in one way or another, then go ahead and raise the questions to the State Council but do not decide them on the spur of the moment, in a unilateral way.

[Barkhatov] Which, in the end, nevertheless, destroys [words indistinct].

[Shaposhnikov] Therefore, I want to say to you that the Baltic republics, having received complete independence, do not raise question like that at all: give us weapons, given us equipment, give us the men who are serving now on the territory, well, of these republics. And theirs is a more civilized way of resolving the matter.

[Barkhatov] But well, what should you do in such a situation? Although, on the other hand, an economic agreement has been signed in the Kremlin.

[Shaposhnikov] I think it is time to examine the possibility of creating a defense union of sovereign states within the framework of a unified economic and military strategic space on the basis of collective security. Moreover, the time has come, probably, to sign an agreement on the status of servicemen on the territory of the republics in which it would be written clearly and plainly that the military contingent on the territory of sovereign

republics undertakes not to interfere in the republic's internal affairs, and other points. And the republic as a whole could say, or pledge to guarantee the conditions for the stay of servicemen on its territory.

Well, after such a defense union of sovereign states had been concluded perhaps we will indeed arrive at only youths called up from a republic serving on the territory of that republic.

[Barkhatov] So, in the end, is it realistic?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, that can be resolved in a civilized way. Moreover, I have already proposed to the president that a consultative council of the Defense Ministers of the sovereign states should be set up which could decide both the current and the more important and long-term tasks, including concerning military reform.

[Barkhatov] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, will such a structure resemble the organizational structure of the Warsaw Pact, or something like it?

[Shaposhnikov] Well, so to speak, we won't strive for it to be like something which has already existed and which [words indistinct].

[Barkhatov] Nevertheless, there could be such an analogy in history?

[Shaposhnikov] Yes, I think that on the whole, close to that, close to that. Every republic would assume certain obligations, the center would also assume certain obligations and, naturally, the people who serve that cause would also assume obligations. But I will never reconcile myself to the thought that we should begin to divide up weapons, especially nuclear weapons, and especially people who took an oath to the constitution of the USSR and to the Soviet state as a whole.

Unified Command, Control, Safeguards Advocated

PM2110085791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Oct 91 p 1

[Article by Military Observer V. Izgarshev under the "Today's Commentaries" rubric: "About the Living Bear's Hide"]

[Text] Do you remember, reader, the old Russian tale about the unfortunate hunters who divided up a bear's hide before they had actually killed it? There is much sense in that piece of folk wisdom. It came to my mind in connection with the whole cascade of overt and covert intentions and decisions being hatched and made by many current presidents and other high-ranking sovereign rulers at local level regarding our Soviet Army and Navy.

Some, as in the Ukraine, have designs on entire military districts, others—as in Azerbaijan—covet divisions or regiments, and yet others even have their eyes on missiles and nuclear warheads. Since soldiers live on our territory and eat our bread, they claim, then it is us they

will serve and we will take them under our sovereign wing. V. Chornovil, one of the Ukrainian presidential candidates, literally declared the following: "...I got in touch with the command of the Carpathian Military District, on whose territory tactical nuclear weapons covering the Ukrainian border from Izmail to Brest are located. While there is nothing to replace it, we will not allow anybody to strip our defensive line."

Forgive me, esteemed statesmen—those who already have a mandate and those who still aspire to gain them—I do not wish to insult anybody, but what about the lessons of the old story about the bear's hide? Can you divide up something which does not belong to you? Our Armed Forces do not belong to any single republic—large or small. They are common, they belong to the whole people, and their entire personnel—from soldier to marshal—although joining their ranks at different times, took an oath of loyalty to the whole people, not to any individual administrative entities within the Union's border.

Incidentally, our former Baltic republics which are now independent European countries did not even hint at appropriating Soviet Army units and Baltic Fleet ships which do not belong to them.

As for others who lay claim on the troops, then I think it appropriate to mention that all decisions in this regard during the current transition period lie exclusively with the State Council. It is vested with full authority in connection with questions of military building and the elaboration and implementation of defense policy.

This is sensible and fair. Otherwise, how could the unity of the defense-strategic space and the defense interests of citizens and the country as a whole be guaranteed? This, by the way, is the key to both internal and external stability.

Still more unacceptable are claims to possess nuclear weapons. As the saying goes, even a hedgehog understands that a nuclear bomb or missile is not a toy. Thoroughly worked-out unified command, unified control, and unified safeguards are particularly important here. As soon as one of the components of this unified system and policy is violated, the whole thing will collapse.

The desire for sovereignty which has gripped the republics, autonomous formations, and even some territories which are barely the size of a rayon, is probably an inevitable sign of the times. It is like an infection, a rampant illness which, evidently, we are all destined to experience. But even in this unhealthy state let us not forget the most important point, people: Compromising our defenses and splintering the Army along national lines is downright irresponsible, not to say criminal. We are all in favor of reforming it and reducing its manpower levels to whatever reasonable defense sufficiency dictates. But not to divide it up, not to grab something which belongs to the whole people for the sake of political ambitions.

Most High-Ranking Officers Invited To Resign

LD1810110591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1821 GMT 17 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct (TASS)—The USSR Ministry of Defense commission for abolishing military-political bodies and creating the bodies of combat training and structures for work with personnel within the USSR Armed Forces has completed the certification of generals and admirals, workers of the leading echelon of the former Main Military-Political Directorate of the USSR Armed Forces and the subdivisions linked to it, former military-political workers of the ground forces as well as chiefs (the rank of generals and admirals only) of the military-political departments of higher educational establishments, and the departments of social sciences of military academies.

About 200 people have been certified. Most of them, who have prolonged service records and proper socio-domestic conditions, including Colonel General Nikolay Shlyaga, have been offered retirement. Twenty-nine generals and admirals, former top military-political workers, have been left under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of Defense until the issue of their appointment is solved. Thus, it has transpired that some of them have no living accommodations. The commission believes that, without firm guarantees from relevant departments on solving issues which are vital for all those who are certified, they should not be invited to resign.

According to a report by the commission's press service, former top workers of the military-political bodies have shown understanding toward the certification. There have been instances of some requesting to be discharged voluntarily, and others have asked to be allowed to continue service in the USSR Armed Forces.

In the next few days generals and admirals, former leading military-political workers of the anti-aircraft troops, the Navy, and the Air Forces will be certified.

'Acute Problems' Due to Reductions, Withdrawals

PM1810133291 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 18 Oct 91 First Edition p 1

[Report on interview with Colonel Valeriy Ochirov, deputy chairman of USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Affairs, by unidentified TASS correspondent under "Direct Line" rubric—date and place not given: "Statewide Program Needed"]

[Text] "Housing construction for officers and warrant officers should be a priority item in the state's defense budget," Colonel Valeriy Ochirov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Affairs, told a TASS correspondent in an interview.

The USSR people's deputy recalled that the commencement of the implementation of the decision on the unilateral reduction of the USSR Armed Forces by 500,000 men and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe has brought to light a series of acute problems, including some caused by the absence of a mechanism for servicemen's protection. "A significant proportion of approximately 150,000 discharged officers and warrant officers were not provided with housing or jobs," he noted.

According to V. Ochirov, more than 185,000 men, including some 43,000 officers and warrant officers, have already been withdrawn, in effect, from the territory of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Mongolia. He added that more than 370,000 people are still being withdrawn from Germany, including some 100,000 officers and warrant officers and 185,000 of their family members. "For them," V. Ochirov stressed, "100,000-120,000 apartments are needed." If you take account of the fact that before the start of the troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe some 175,000 officers' and warrant officers' families had no apartments, the total number of cadre servicemen without housing "could reach nearly 300,000." The committee's deputy chairman is convinced that these people, who served their Motherland honorably, must not be deprived of the means to exist or be without a profession or housing. As he put it, "this is not only immoral, but politically dangerous." Therefore, he believes, despite the importance of other tasks of state building, it is necessary to "formulate and adopt a statewide program for social provision for former servicemen."

The resolution of these questions, the officer admitted, is outside the prerogative of the USSR Defense Ministry alone. "Additional resources for these purposes could be sought by means of a change in the structure of the defense budget, in part by appropriating some of the funds allocated for arms and equipment purchases."

Black Sea Personnel Elect Strike Committee

PM2010133991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 18 Oct 91 First Edition p 3

[Report by Captain 2d Rank V. Pasyakin under the rubric "Direct Line": "Strike Committee Is Beginning to Act"]

[Text] Sevastopol, 17 Oct—An extraordinary conference of trade union organizations of sea-going personnel from Black Sea Fleet auxiliaries and service craft, the search and rescue service, and the hydrographic service ended with the election of a strike committee.

Here are the seamen's basic demands which the conference supported: an increase in salary rates of 150-200 percent and the implementation without fail of the Navy commander in chief's directive DF-16 (on housing matters). In particular the question of the crews of ships which are in Bulgaria for repair was raised.

B. Noskov, chairman of the regional council of the sea-going personnel's trade union organizations, became head of the strike committee. It was only after this that reports from the leaders of auxiliaries and service craft and the search and rescue service on resolving social issues concerning civilian personnel were heard at the fleet's military council.

V. Noskov and V. Dyatchik, chairman of the auxiliary ship brigade trade union committee, came to see me at the correspondents' center directly after the session.

"In our view, the fleet commanders reacted with indifference to the questions we raised," the trade union leaders said in an interview with me. "A directive will be prepared. But when will this happen and what will it stipulate?.. Such a solution does not suit us."

And here is what Vice Admiral L. Vasilyev, deputy commander of rear services and chief of the fleet's rear services, told me:

"The fleet does not have the means to satisfy the demand to raise the salaries of seamen on auxiliaries and service

craft. We immediately appealed to the the commander of the Navy's rear services to resolve this question. We did not receive a negative reply. But we do not know for the moment how it will be resolved. As for the crews of the ships in Bulgaria, where a particularly complicated situation has developed in connection with purchasing food-stuffs, we have found a solution. Their situation will be improved."

Military Complex Goods Production Reported

*LD2010193691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service
in English 1700 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Text] By the end of this year, 60 percent of what the Soviet military-industrial complex turns out will be consumer goods; two years ago, it was 50 percent. These figures have been released by the defense department. In his comment, a prominent Soviet expert, Doctor of Economics Vitaliy (Shlykov), says that the absence of a single government program hampers conversion.

Estonia

Relations With 'Dictatorial' DPRK Rejected

LD2010060291 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Estonian Government has rejected the DPRK Government's offer to establish diplomatic relations. It considers that country's leadership to be dictatorial.

Latvia

Citizenship Resolution, Gorbunovs Comment Viewed

LD2010203591 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian
0530 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] As we reported in the news, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia has restored the rights of citizens of the Republic of Latvia. Clear wording says that the totality of citizens of Latvia consists of persons who had citizenship of the Republic of Latvia up to 17 June 1940 and the descendants of those persons, irrespective of where they live at the time when this law comes into force. However, dual citizenship will not be allowed. A general naturalization system is also foreseen. In the view of deputies of the Supreme Council themselves, there are very strict conditions for naturalization. There are five stipulations in all:

1. Knowledge of the Latvian language at a conversational level.
2. Former citizenship must be renounced.
3. Residence in Latvia for no less than 16 years.
4. Knowledge of the basic statutes of the Latvian Constitution.
5. Taking the oath of the Republic of Latvia.

At the same time, the resolution names those categories of persons who will not gain citizenship of the Republic of Latvia at all. There are six: Any of the persons who are serving in the USSR Armed Forces, its internal or security services, as well as persons who after 1940 chose the Republic of Latvia as a place of residence after demobilization from the USSR Armed Forces. It must be added that, in voting for additions to the resolution, included in this category also were cadres of the CPSU and the Komsomol sent to Latvia from the USSR after 1940. Meanwhile, exceptions are foreseen outside the general naturalization system in the resolution, namely the Supreme Council Presidium of the Republic of Latvia may assign citizenship of the Republic of Latvia to persons who have worked especially for the good of Latvia. Citizenship will be given also to those persons and their descendants who up to 1940 entered Latvia legally but have not become citizens of the Republic of Latvia. Citizenship will also be granted to those approximately 30,000 Latvians from Russia who only returned to Latvia after World War II. All the above-mentioned

categories of persons must be registered by 1 July 1992 in the system laid down by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia to receive a passport of the Republic of Latvia. Only for former citizens of the Republic of Latvia living abroad will the time for choosing not be limited, said Rolands Rikards. They can even do it 20 years later.

Meanwhile, a group of Supreme Council deputies of opposing tendency, composing the former Communist Party's minority equal rights faction, called the first series of documents to settle the citizenship question adopted by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia characteristic of the apartheid system. These deputies expressed the hope that Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, remaining loyal to the ideas he has expressed on the need of the so-called zero variant in settling the citizenship question, will not sign this Supreme Council resolution.

Today, once again we will acquaint you with the standpoint expressed on this question by Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs, which he expressed as recently as Monday, at the sitting of the People's Front of Latvia faction before setting off for Helsinki to sign the Helsinki Final Act yesterday. This is Anatolijs Gorbunovs at the People's Front of Latvia faction's sitting on Monday:

[Begin Gorbunovs recording] Fate has decreed that tomorrow in Helsinki, in the name of the Latvian state and people, I must sign the principles of the Final Act of the Helsinki process, thus testifying full agreement with this Act and starting our return to the EC. It must be said that the Helsinki conference documents, among which the observance of human rights is guaranteed, are fully in accordance with the basic principles of restoring the Latvian state. Obviously, that is also why we are being accepted as a CSCE member state. However, at the same time as we receive such great rights, we must also think of our obligations. These obligations were certified even in the act establishing the independent state of Latvia signed on 18 November 1918, which states that no nation will be oppressed in Latvia and that all persons will have equal rights irrespective of their nationality, social origins, or religious convictions. All residents of Latvia are invited, together, to build an independent, democratic state. We, deputies of the People's Front faction, too, before the 3 March poll, called on all residents of Latvia to build an independent democratic state. People believed us, and the world community was even astonished at our results in the poll. Nevertheless, we must not forget (?at all) that thereby we took on a huge responsibility and that people will continue to believe us only if we never lose our sense of honor, even in the event that we make a mistake. This primarily relates to settling the citizenship question, so topical at the moment. To all residents of Latvia, in my opinion, we must openly (?say) that the restoration and allocation of citizenship is regarded by Latvians not only as a juridical procedure but also as the main factor deciding

the preservation of the Latvian nation because the colonial policy of the former Soviet Union made Latvians a minority nation in their fatherland, in comparison to the proportion of Russian-speaking residents here, in Latvia. It is the democratic principles of restoring and forming the Latvian state that place on us the obligation to tell this to the citizens of other nationalities who entered Latvia after the war and for whom Latvia became the place of residence, work, and for many the only homeland. The process of assigning citizenship must stimulate the integration of other nationalities into the Latvian environment, and this environment must be preserved by common efforts; it must be cultivated; it must not be devastated and torn up. The obvious determiners may be the number of years of residence, the knowledge of the Latvian language, loyalty and faith in the Republic of Latvia, which must be attested not only by signature but mainly in one's attitude and work. For its part, the Latvian state undertakes to guarantee to residents of other nationalities all human rights, as well as the cultural autonomy that is so important. I think that it is just this process of mutual interchange that will be developed by the residents of our Latvian state. [end recording]

Jurkans Threatens To Resign

OW1810183891 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1741 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans argues that a draft law on Latvian citizenship now under debate in parliament "is not aimed at further democratization of society". The Latvian newspaper "SM-Today" (former "Sovetskaya Moldyozh") reported that Mr. Jurkans hopes the reaction of the Latvian public opinion and the international community will force the parliament to introduce certain amendments.

The draft law envisages citizenship only for those who can speak the Latvian language and have lived in the republic for no less than 16 years. Latvians make up 53 of the republic's population, the rest are people of other nationalities.

Mr. Jurkans contends that the adoption of the draft law would split the society. "If it is passed, I will resign because I will be ashamed of the present government and parliament", he said.

Economic Agreement No Earlier Than Nov

OW1810183691 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1741 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Deputy Economy Minister Andris Gutmanis told the newspaper "Diena" that Russia and Latvia will sign an economic treaty for 1992 no earlier than in November. A few days ago Mr. Gutmanis

returned from Moscow where he had had talks with representatives of the Russian economy minister.

Mr. Gutmanis said the two republics will be trading on the basis of world prices and settling between each other in rubles in accordance with the dollar's commercial exchange rate.

Mr. Gutmanis noted that for the moment he cannot provide any information about the amount and range of goods for trade between Latvia and Russia next year because it is not yet clear what prices on its raw materials and goods Russia will establish. He believes the two states should conduct a clearing trade so that none of them face trade deficit.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Interviewed on Minority Issues

AU1810105891 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY
in Polish 14 Oct 91 p 3

[Interview with Lithuanian President Vyatautas Landsbergis by Maciej Nowicki; place and date not given: "The Difficult Art of Being Neighbors"]

[Excerpts] Mr. President, we are speaking at a time that sees the internal character of the Lithuanian state and relations between Lithuania and other states taking shape. The Poles supported Lithuania's struggle for independence, which they perceived as a struggle for democracy: In your opinion, what kind of position should Poland occupy in Lithuania's foreign policy? What do the two sides have to offer each other?

[Landsbergis] There is a great deal that we have to offer each other. We are neighbors geographically, and there are historical ties linking us. We have also both been through decades of communist dictatorship, although Lithuania was in a worse position, because unlike Poland, it did not even have the status of a satellite state. In the struggle against Communism, we strove for mutual support. "Solidarity" played a special role in the struggle. Currently, we have many opportunities for political and economic cooperation. We hope that progress is made on the issue of opening new border crossing-points. What goes on at our single border crossing-point, Ogdroniki, is unimaginable. [passage omitted]

[Nowicki] I would like to ask you about the Polish-Lithuanian negotiations. What are the limits of compromise for the Lithuanian side concerning the demands of the Polish minority and, in your opinion, which of the demands are unrealistic?

[Landsbergis] The basic limits for the rights of national minorities are the limits to such rights contained in documents that apply to all of Europe. All minorities' rights must be linked to the principle of loyalty toward the state in which the minorities live. We have already, at the beginning of the year, proposed to the Polish side that these rights be given a precise form. The Lithuanian

side's proposals were submitted in February. Unfortunately, none of the documents have been signed yet. The Polish side has declined to do so. Now, the Polish side has started to request that the inter-state documents and declarations include things that have already been in force a long time in the form of laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

[Nowicki] But is that the sole reason why the Lithuanian side has not wanted to agree to including clauses on national minority issues in the inter-state treaty on mutual relations?

[Landsbergis] First and foremost, laws concerning the rights of national minorities should be in force in both states. If that is the case, then there is surely no reason why legislation that is already in force should be written into inter-state treaties. For example, we are being asked to allow Poles to use Polish orthography to enter Polish names in passports. That has already been possible for a long time. It is no longer an issue. [passage omitted]

[Nowicki] Mr. President, what would you wish the two national minorities—the Polish minority in Lithuania and the Lithuanian minority in Poland?

[Landsbergis] Peace and objectivity in their approach to solving their problems above all.

Problems With Land Distribution Highlighted

LD2010210391 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0000 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] As harvesting time is coming to an end in Lithuania we start talking again about the coming changes in the countryside. Back last summer when the Supreme Council of Lithuania was discussing the laws on land reform, the idea was that the movement was to start by autumn after the soil has been plowed and when the crops have been sown. Yet today many think that there is a delay in distributing the land, privatizing the property of collective farms, and, in general, the whole matter was brought to a standstill.

Officials who are working on the reform in the localities think that the movement is too slow due to various bureaucratic hindrances and the reform carried out this way will require up to 20 or even more years.

Why cannot the land be given back to the previous owner who has all documents to confirm his rights to that property and is ready to cultivate land, these officials keep asking on television and radio. According to the law, first of all, all those willing to get back, buy, or rent land have to be registered, then projects of land exploitation have to be worked out, and only after that can the land be redistributed. As is known, applications will be registered until 31 December. Three more months will be needed to work out preliminary projects of land exploitation. According to them, the land should be started to distribute from 1 March next year. The spring distribution will last till 1 May. After that the land will be

distributed again in autumn and in the course of the following year. It is expected that the greatest part of those who are willing will get land by the end of the next year.

According to a government official, Jonas Povilaitis, this will be the hottest year.

The very process of the reform, however, will be much longer. Experts maintain that the final complex projects of land exploitation will be completed as late as around 1996-97. This rather distant term is explained by the fact that the Lithuanian state archives will not manage to issue confirmation documents to all former landowners earlier.

Already now the staff of the archives are drowned among the cases of former owners and, according to its director Alfonsas Piliponis, have come to a dead end. In one month the archives received 14,000 or more applications from former owners, while they were able to send copies of documents to only 1,000 applicants. We will need 5 years at least to answer those people who have no documents themselves, said director of the archives. And what about the others? It is estimated that there are about 300,000 landowners of their heirs. The Lithuanian state archives have in one year confirmed property rights of only 12,000 persons.

The government is trying to find the way out. A week ago a permission was issued to confirm the right to property on the basis of any document presented by the applicant or even on the basis of witnesses' testimony. They will be used during land distribution next spring. This should partly calm people down—all those who used to own land will receive it regardless of whether they have documents of ownership or any other documents showing that they or their parents possessed the land before 1940.

Thus, already this winter, the peak of the reform is expected. This opinion is also shared by the Lithuanian minister of agriculture, Rimvydas Survila. The main thing, said the minister during one of the television programs, is to avoid haste as land should be distributed reasonably. We should not oppose country and city people, land-owners, and those who do not own it [as heard].

On the other hand, in the opinion of the men in power, many problems and conflicts arise due to ignorance and misunderstandings, of which there is a great deal in the Lithuanian countryside. The first sociological investigation carried out this year among village people proves that. Members of the Scientific Institute of Agriculture in Vilnius questioned about 400 Lithuanian peasants. The aim of this was to find out how much people knew about the future changes and their attitude to them. A member of the Institute, Saulius Budvytis, commenting on the results of the investigation, told Radio Vilnius that it presented a rather sad picture. As it appears, simple village people practically do not read newspapers and receive all information from television and radio. This information is not sufficient for a person to make a decision. Thus, nearly a

half of all questioned persons think that, due to the reforms, their lives will deteriorate. Only nine percent are sure of a better life. In the sociologists' opinion, this allows to conclude that village people do not understand the essence and the necessity of the reforms. This is also confirmed by other answers of the questioned people. For instance, only 27 percent think that the reform of their farm is necessary. As many as 31 percent disagree with this. Only 6 percent of agricultural workers would like to work on their private farms, whereas more than a half would like to go on working on large collective farms like they do now. And the saddest conclusion is that as many as 12 percent of country people, mostly young, are not attracted to land altogether. Saulius Budvytis thinks that there are too many agricultural workers in Lithuania and this number should decrease, but not so suddenly.

Such are the results of the sociological investigation which showed the overall attitude of country people. What is the attitude of former and future landowners, those who have expressed the wish to get the land back or to purchase it? Most of them are going to farm on patches of land of 10 to 15 hectares. Agricultural workers of Polish origin in southeastern Lithuania have recently become more active. This is the result of a great deal of work done by local deputies and other officials. As is known, to receive previously owned property one has to be a Lithuanian citizen. Until recently quite a few ethnic Poles were still in doubt whether to accept Lithuanian citizenship. At present more and more of them are taking a decision and applying to get the land. The total number of those who wish to get back their land in the district of Salcininkai is about 1,000. Most of these people live on the land of their fathers. A somewhat greater number of applications, about 1,300 were handed in the Kaunas district. According to the chief official of land exploitation, Benas Aleksonis, many people would like to get land around the city of Kaunas, although they used to own it in other places of Lithuania. Therefore, unlike in other parts of Lithuania, there may be a shortage of land there. It is clear already now that there will be trials and conflicts, said our interviewers. Yet this is inevitable if we want to restore the truth.

The report was compiled by Roma Pakeniene of the Lithuanian external service.

1991 Economic, Labor Statistics Released

LD2010092891 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network
in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] The Statistical Department of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has published information about Lithuania's economic and social development in January-September 1991. We acquaint you with some figures:

In the January-September period, the republic's economy employed 1.9 million people. This is 50 percent of the permanent residents and 83 percent of available labor resources. The largest number of people work at state institutions and public organizations.

According to information from the Lithuanian labor exchange, on 30 September there were 15,800 unemployed people, while 14,500 vacancies were registered, including 1,700 vacancies for professional workers.

In nine months of this year the state and state joint stock enterprises turned out 9.6 billion rubles worth of products in comparable prices. This is 1.5 percent less than last year.

In the January-September period, the highest price index was in the food and building materials industries.

According to provisional figures, the republic's farms have harvested 3.9 millions tonnes of grain. It is intended to harvest 1.6 million tonnes of potatoes and gather 320,000 tonnes of vegetables. This is 6.4 and 15 percent, respectively, more than last year.

In nine months of this year retail goods turnover of all trade organizations constituted 9,127,800,000 rubles, 1.8 times higher in actual prices and 35 percent lower in comparable prices than last year. This was influenced by a reduced supply of goods from the market funds.

In August of this year the prices of all goods increased by 3.5 percent compared with July and by 1.8 times, including the sale of goods at commercial prices, as compared with December 1990. The prices of food were 2.3 times and of non-food goods 3.4 times higher than in December of last year.

The prices and tariffs of paid services to the population increased by 11.2 percent compared with last July and by 2.2 times compared with December of last year.

The average wage in August was 682 roubles, 2 percent higher than last July and 2 times higher than in the fourth quarter of 1990.

The savings at the Saving Bank increased by 759,400,000 rubles as compared with the corresponding period of last year and constituted 7,376,400,000 rubles.

The number of registered crimes in January-September was 32,480 or 24 percent more than last year. Ten percent of the crimes were serious. The number of such crimes increased by 12 percent.

Deputy Reports on Smuggled KGB Documents

OW1810152891 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1440 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Jurgis Jurgelis, deputy of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet and a member of an ad hoc parliamentary commission to inquire into the activities of the USSR KGB in Lithuania, said that he had sufficient evidence to claim that documents had been smuggled out of the former KGB building in Vilnius even after the building had been transferred under Lithuanian authorities.

Addressing a parliament session on Thursday [17 October], he cited two occasions of documents having been smuggled out which, he claimed, had taken place on September 5 and 10. The speaker demanded an immediate investigation into the theft of the documents from the former KGB building, an interrogation of the persons responsible for their safekeeping and of those who had taken part in the action.

Their names are known, says Mr. Jurgelis, who also demanded that all commissions and organisations connected with the investigation of KGB work and the storage of its documents restructure their operation.

Deputy Prime Minister Urges Troop Withdrawal

LD1910212391 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Vaisvila has proposed on behalf of the government that the schedule agreed on a preliminary basis for the withdrawal of units of the internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] stationed on the territory of the Lithuanian Republic be confirmed. The message he sent to USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Barannikov notes that delay in the resolution of these problems has led to soldiers leaving their service localities without authorization. To support this, the message states we report that according to data, 21 servicemen left one troops unit without authorization during the night of 11-12 October. Many of these were drafted from St Petersburg. However, the unit command has not yet informed the leadership of the Lithuanian Republic about this occurrence.

Vaisvila Urges Faster Timetable

OW1810202691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1935 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On October 18 Lithuanian Vice-Premier Zigmas Vaisvila has sent a telegram to USSR Interior Minister Viktor Barannikov notifying him about the desertion of 21 soldiers from one of the USSR Interior Ministry units stationed in Lithuania and urging him to speed up the withdrawal of these units from the republic.

"The Lithuanian Government calls on you to approve the proposed timetable for the Interior Ministry troops' withdrawal and to immediately begin its implementation. The delay leads only to desertion of soldiers unwilling to serve in occupation troops", the telegram points out.

Requests Taking Over Power Plant Guard

LD1910231791 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2230 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The Lithuanian Vice Premier Zigmas Vaisvila today sent another telegram to Soviet Interior Minister

Viktor Barannikov, this time in connection with Lithuania taking over the guard of the Ignalina nuclear power plant. He requests that the arms and transport of the interior troops battalion which was in charge of the power station's guard should also be handed over to Lithuania, as well as communications and different documentation.

In yesterday's telegram to the Soviet interior minister, Zigmas Vaisvila asked for confirmation of the earlier coordinated withdrawal schedule of the Soviet troops and urged starting the pullout immediately.

Japan Sets Conditions for IMF Membership

OW1910180791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1737 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Lithuanian radio, Japanese Foreign Minister Tara Nakayama told Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius during his visit to Tokyo that the Japanese Government supports Lithuania's aspiration to become a full-fledged member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank but stipulates that Lithuania should pay off its share of credits offered to the Soviet Union by Western countries.

Experts suggest that the process of Lithuania's entrance in the IMF and the WB [World Bank] may take from 6 months to 2 years.

Mr. Vagnorius pointed out that part of the debt is already being paid. He added that Lithuania is also prepared to return the money it used to carry out a number of economic projects on its territory. At the same time the Lithuanian Government considers itself free from paying off the credits used for cosmic and military purposes.

BALTFAX Reports Japan To Grant Aid

OW1810202091 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1935 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius has met with his Japanese counterpart Toshiki Kaifu in Tokyo. The Lithuanian radio reports Mr. Vagnorius spoke in favor of the economic cooperation with Japan. On his part, Mr. Kaifu stated that his country intends to give Lithuania economic and technical aid according to the plan of "the Group of 24" comprising 12 EEC countries and 12 other countries, among them Japan. The group's aid plan to the Baltics will be discussed in late October-early November.

Mr. Vagnorius said in Tokyo that Lithuania willing to attract foreign investment plans to pay its share of the USSR's foreign debt.

Supreme Soviet

Yeltsin Vetoes Law on Election of Heads

OW1810212391 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2028 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [18 October], Boris Yeltsin informed the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet that he would not sign the law on the election of heads of local administrations, adopted by it. The elections had been scheduled for December 8. Using his constitutional rights, Boris Yeltsin sent the law back for additional scrutiny.

In a letter to the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, Boris Yeltsin noted that the election of the heads of local administrations, the assumption of their duties and the formation of new structures would take time during which neither the implementation of the reforms, nor the maintenance of the economy and social sphere at the present level, already low, will be possible. By the end of this period, said the president, "Russia's economy will be completely ruined."

"The political and social consequences of the implementation of the law on the election of heads of local administrations are so destructive," said Boris Yeltsin, "that I, as the person directly responsible for the situation in the republic, cannot put my signature under this law."

Yeltsin Issues Statement

LD1810222291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2104 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—The information department of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president issued a statement by Boris Yeltsin to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. It reads:

"A signature of the RSFSR president under the laws passed by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet means taking an enormous share of responsibility for the political, social, and economic results of the implementation of the law, as well as a duty to guarantee the implementation of the law throughout the territory of the RSFSR.

The legislative and executive powers of the republic are faced with the need for an immediate beginning of radical economic reform. The delay in resolving this issue would put in doubt the very existence of Russia as a state. At the same time, holding the elections of the heads of administration, and forming new structures, will take up a considerable amount of time, during which it will be impossible not only to implement reforms, but also to sustain the economy and social sphere at their present level, which is actually quite low. After the end of this period, the economy of the RSFSR will reach a complete breakdown.

The implementation of the economic reform, accompanied by the adoption of a number of unpopular measures, requires the creation of a strong executive core which would not depend or would little depend on political passions, and would not surrender to populist pressure from outside.

Holding elections for the heads of administration will become not only possible, but necessary after the achievement of stabilization of the national economy, in order to learn the electors' opinions on the situation in the republic and to receive a mandate for the continuation of reforms.

Political and social results of the implementation of the law "On the Elections of the Head of Administration" in the situation which has been created in the country would be so destructive that, as president of the Russian Federation, who bears direct responsibility for the situation in the republic, I cannot put my signature under this law and I am compelled to use the right, which I possess on the basis of part 2 of Article 117, and point 2 of Article 121-5 of the RSFSR Constitution, not to sign the law which has been adopted, and to return it for further consideration to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

Veto Linked to Aug Coup

LD1810220291 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Information Agency reports that the president has used his right to veto for the first time. Boris Yeltsin vetoed parliament's decision to hold local authority elections in the republic this December. This tough decision is apparently connected with the fact that the executive organs which will be organizing the forthcoming election campaign of local administration heads failed effectively to support the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic leadership during the August putsch. They took the side of the state emergency committee explicitly and latently.

Shakhrai Resigns Over Policy

LD1810224891 Moscow Russian Television
Network in Russian 1940 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Address by Presidential Adviser Sergey Shakhrai at the Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 18 October; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed chairman, esteemed deputies: I have a short statement to make. I will end with a suggestion for the agenda of today's session. I regard the decision by the Supreme Soviet yesterday to turn down the president's request for a deferment of elections for heads of administrations as a tragic mistake on parliament's part, which will have the most serious consequences.

First, this decision essentially amounts to a parliamentary veto of the implementation of radical economic

reform, which is impossible without strong local executive power. The situation can be brought graphically home in the following metaphor: The people have appointed a commander to defend it against the approaching enemy: hunger, cold, and ruin. Parliament has not given the commander an army and it has prohibited him from creating one, stating that in six months or so, by all the rules of democracy, a home guard will be formed locally. It might be subordinated to the commander, but the commander is ordered to go into the attack—in other words, into radical reform—immediately. He is to clamber out of the trenches on his own and advance.

Second, this Supreme Soviet decision inevitably means a return to feudal fragmentation and the collapse of Russian statehood. In the absence of a normal economy, each head of administration elected by the population of a hungry and cold oblast or kray will, for quite objective reasons, begin to impose restrictive barriers on food and raw materials and then territorial and state barriers. He will have to earn the confidence of the population. The conclusion is that instead of providing the president with support in implementing reform, the Supreme Soviet is going over to the opposition. Under these circumstances, I announce that I am giving up my duties as chairman of the legislation committee and member of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium. I ask you to include this issue on the agenda without a debate and to adopt the relevant Supreme Soviet decision.

Filming of Aug Events Sparks New Coup Rumors

LD1810131891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak
Network in Russian 1230 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Report by Lyudmila Semina]

[Text] There were many events today at the session. To start with, however, in order to disperse the fears and rumors which spread around Moscow about an alleged new putsch and about tanks on the streets and crowds near the White House, I would like to say that there is nothing terrible happening—they are shooting a film, evidently about the August putsch. There is no need to hasten to the defense of the Russian White House today, and the crowd scene has already ended.

Session Adopts Political Rehabilitation Law

LD1810163391 Moscow TASS in English
1518 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By Tamara Zamyatina and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS—The law on political rehabilitation of purges' victims has been adopted by Russian parliament today. "Millions of people have become victims to the totalitarian state arbitrariness over the years of the Soviet rule, runs the document, being repressed because of their political or religious

convictions, social, national or other status. The parliament of Russia, expressing its condolences to the victims, to their families and friends, regards the purges as incompatible with the notion of justice, and expresses its resolute will to implement law and civil rights."

Russian parliament also adopted a decision to observe October 30 yearly as Political Repressions Victims' Day. A year ago that day a symbolic stone from the Solovetskiy Island labour camp was installed on the Lubyanka Square.

The Orthodox priest Gleb Yakunin who was also purged for his human rights activities, taking floor after voting, expressed his conviction that the times of political repressions have gone forever. With unusual unanimity the delegates adopted a separate statement rehabilitating Yakunin.

Parliament Suspends Two Deputies' Powers

LD2010193291 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1752 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By Galina Vinitskaya and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (TASS)—The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet today put an early end to Deputy Artem Tarasov's powers.

As was reported, when he was abroad a month ago, A. Tarasov, general director of the Istok Foreign Economic Association, sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin in which he asked "that he no longer be considered a Russian people's deputy."

People's Deputy Andrey Dunayev was also relieved of his powers in connection with his recent appointment as RSFSR internal affairs minister.

Deputies Fill Vacancies in Union Parliament

OW1810214291 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2028 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [18 October], Russia's parliament filled the Russian Federation's 11 vacancies in the Union Supreme Soviet's Council of the Republics. Among those elected were people's deputies of the Russian Federation, Dmitri Volkogonov and Ilya Konstantinov. At the same time, the candidatures of the popular deputies Galina Starovoitova and Oleg Rummyantsev did not receive parliamentary support. Acting chairman of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet, Ruslan Khasbulatov, removed his candidature.

During the discussion of the deputies of the Russian Federation in the Council of the Union of the Soviet, Supreme Soviet, the candidatures of Oleg Kalugin, David Kagultinov and Rasul Gamzatov were rejected.

At the end of the session, heeding the opinion of the Committee for Legislation, the Supreme Soviet put off the discussion of resignation of Sergey Shakhrai who had announced he was giving up his post of chairman of this committee and was laying down his duties in the Supreme Soviet Presidium. The parliament of the Russian Federation also confirmed the resolution terminating the deputies' powers of Artyom Tarasov (taking his personal application into account) and Andrey Dunayev (in view of his appointment as the Russian Federation's interior minister).

Khasbulatov Concerned Over Political Situation

LD1910224191 Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT
19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—A meeting of the Russian delegation to the federal parliament was held today in the House of Soviets of the Russian Federation, the press service of the Presidium of the Russian parliament reports.

The meeting was opened by acting Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov. He congratulated the delegation on being honoured with this confidence, but stressed that involvement in the work of supreme bodies of power was bringing now more negative, than positive emotions. Aside from enormous responsibility before the electors, one should take into account their "potential discontent" over the actions of the officials elected by them, if this "does not result in the immediate solution of all problems."

Khasbulatov expressed concern over both economic and political situation of residents of the Russian Federation. He said he was sure that the legislators knew about it from telegrams, letters and meetings with electors. This is why, he continued, along with law-making activities, the delegates will have "to work hard to protect the rights of our compatriots, as well as economic, political and cultural interests of the Russian Federation in the emerging community."

Recalling the "gap" between legislators from the two parliaments that existed in the past, Khasbulatov mentioned its objective reasons. It will be necessary to overcome this barrier of alienation, so that the joint efforts of legislators from the federal and republican parliament will be of maximum use for their electors and will promote the improvement of the situation in the country.

Khasbulatov expressed hope that the Russian delegation to the federal parliament, along with respecting the views of their electors and their personal convictions, would hold a common stand, proceeding from the interests of the motherland and peoples of the Russian Federation.

Medvedev Briefs Parliament on Tartar Events

LD2010232291

[Editorial Report] Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian at 0030 GMT on 17 October carries a 5-minute live or recorded statement by Nikolay Pavlovich Medvedev, chairman of the Commission for the National-State System and Interethnic Relations, at the "Mayak" correspondent center at the Supreme Soviet after returning from a mission to Tatarstan.

Medvedev Begins by recalling that, by a decision of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, he was instructed to form a group of deputies with a view to travelling to Tatarstan and studying the situation there and to deliver a report subsequently at the Soviet of Nationalities. "Unfortunately, it turned out that the leadership of the Republic of Tatarstan regarded the arrival of such a deputation as impossible and requested I travel there on my own. I found myself in a very uncomfortable position. After having coordinated my actions with the leadership here, I nevertheless, decided to travel there on my own. One day, I took part in the work of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet session which started work yesterday and have returned only just now," Medvedev says, adding that "what is happening there now is an absolutely impermissible phenomenon from the point of view of civilized approaches."

I was treated in a way as though I had come from another state and had it pointed out to me that no one had invited me, he notes. This tactless parliamentary approach already showed the double game being played by the republic's leadership, who are afraid of those nationalistic—to put it bluntly—extremist forces, who have surrounded the Supreme Soviet and calmly did not give—and probably now do not give—the opportunity to work, who, of course, do not want to hear that Tatarstan is somehow part of Russia. It turns out that they have decided already that they are not in Russia and that they have never been in Russia. They held a mourning rally on the occasion of the capture of Kazan on 13 October; this was on the eve of the session. Evidently, a very good scenario was planned. Tens of thousands came to attend this mourning rally under the direction of Muslim religious figures. Visiting various republics, including Chechen-Ingush and Dagestan, I have never witnessed such an approach when parliamentarians at the moment of the sitting cannot deal with Muslim leaders who dictate conditions to them: If you do not adopt a law on full, complete state independence today, all of you will leave, and we will let you pass one by one, and we will still consider what is to be done with you. Of course, Russian speakers in the first place and other groups of deputies at once posed the question of halting work. It is impossible for the session to work under these conditions. However, the session is working anyway. I think that, if sense does not gain the upper hand, it will be difficult to tackle anything there. Having talked to the leadership of the republic of Tatarstan—and now I have

just talked to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, reporting on this situation—I think that we must not take up the stand as Russia's parliamentarians have been taking up the whole year as though nothing is taking place there. Things which are not very pleasant—and that is putting it mildly—are taking place: simply chauvinist, national-chauvinist processes are taking place, processes which simply will violate, in the first place, human rights. On civilized methods, referendum methods, we told them—I met with various groups of deputies—two-thirds of the population, of the electorate, living on Tatarstan territory, let them vote, not simply the Tartar nation only, not only people of Tartar nationality, but the entire population. That is a civilized method. After that, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet or the Congress of People's Deputies will make its own decision. After all, Tatarstan is situated on the territory of the Russian state."

Medvedev concludes: "I think that, of course, we have been late, and even those national, sociopolitical movements which I had occasion to meet with, in particular, with the [word indistinct] and others, they have a special radical sovereignty. In these newspapers, they even print things which today are not permissible. I told them bluntly: Today, it is time to demarcate these processes and altogether to divide the national question somehow into two aspects. As far as the aspect of tackling national and interethnic problems, this is correct; this needs to be tackled. Methods and a procedure for tackling all these need to be sought. However the second aspect is the stirring up or interethnic dissension. This needs to be tackled, too. This needs to be tackled in accordance with the criminal code. I do not know why the law enforcement bodies remain silent when the chief of staff of the republican people's home guard of Tatarstan comes and introduces himself, when the chief of the battalion of Leninskiy Rayon of the Tatarstan home guard comes and introduces himself. I reported to Shyamiyev: How can this be? Why do you need the home guard? I talked to the internal affairs minister. It turns out that they all know that such a thing exist, that they are arming. There are already 3,000 men there. What is this? I do not understand this."

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Meets With Democratic Party Chairman

LD1810185491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Nikolai Travkin, chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia, met today, thus continuing a series of meetings which the president has undertaken with leaders of republican public organizations.

Issues of establishing a multiparty system in Russia, the expediency and the dates for carrying out the elections to bodies of power, problems of interrepublican relations,

and speeding up radical economic reforms were discussed in a frank and detailed conversation. The necessity of carrying out regular contacts with leaders of the political parties with the aim of consolidating the efforts of public organizations in the transitional period was pointed out.

This information has been received from the Russian president's information department.

Yeltsin Aide Petrov Rejects Media Criticisms

PM2110090391 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
10 Oct 91 Union Edition p2

[Interview with Yu. Petrov, head of the Russian president's administration, by G. Shipitko in the White House; date not given: "There Is No Organized Opposition in Yeltsin's Apparatus"]

[Text] His name has suddenly begun to appear in the press. "He is a top-class apparatchik," a man "whose long-term aim is to revive the old system," KURANTY claims. "The turncoat nomenklatura always wins out. It looks as if Yeltsin will have to form the Russian administration from its ranks," KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA speculates. "Is the nomenklatura indestructible? Perhaps the apparatus clinging to Yeltsin could complete the Kalashnikovs' unfinished work?" MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI asks.

In every case, they are referring to Yu. Petrov, head of the Russian president's administration, who, so the story goes, only secured such an important post because of his personal friendship with B. Yeltsin.

Getting Yu. Petrov's telephone number turned out to be easy. To my surprise, I got through to him straightaway. The response to my request for a meeting was no less surprising: "You are the first journalist to approach me directly with such a request."

The meeting took place late one evening in the White House, in the spacious office of the head of the president's administration.

[Shipitko] What is your attitude to the accusations brought against you?

[Petrov] I do not see the situation in that way. I certainly am connected with Yeltsin, because we worked together in the Sverdlovsk Oblast CPSU Committee a long time ago. Then we were both in the CPSU Central Committee, from where I was sent to Sverdlovsk as first secretary on Boris Nikolayevich's recommendation. I have spent the last three years as ambassador to Cuba. While I was on leave, Yeltsin suggested that I head the president's administration.

I knew that a difficult job lay ahead of me. However, I had rather lost touch with our internal affairs during my three years in Cuba. I also told him that I had not worked with the people who had been by his side in the political battlefield, the election campaign, and the Supreme

Soviet all these years. But Boris Nikolayevich persuaded me that I had to make this decision. So my transfer to the president's apparatus was a deliberate step. Leaving the fairly prestigious post of ambassador without hesitation, I came here. For the sake of Russia and its rebirth.

I began work on 19 August—the day of the coup. I did not leave the White House in the days that followed. A great many presidential decrees and instructions were issued, which had to be circulated and conveyed to everyone. I am sure that the president's apparatus worked in an organized, coordinated fashion even in these conditions.

Of course there is a tense situation in the president's apparatus, but what is surprising about that? We are witnessing the normal development of the institution of presidential power, which requires the old structures to be changed and people and interrelationships to adapt accordingly. I would not make a tragedy out of all this.

[Shipitko] Obviously that is one way of looking at the situation in Russian power structures. But, as head of the administration, you are accused of coming between executive bodies and the president and influencing his decisions....

[Petrov] There are several factors involved here, but I would not say they had anything to do with apparatus intrigues. Many questions concerning the work of the president's administration have yet to be decided: There is not even a set of regulations governing the head of this administration. The same is true of other structures, incidentally. Finally, we do not even have anywhere to locate the state advisory services: approximately 300 people. The Supreme Soviet wants roughly the same number of offices for its committees and commissions. S. Stankevich was right when he wrote that you cannot work in such makeshift conditions. There is now a possibility of accommodating the Administration of Affairs apparatus in Staraya Ploshchad, so the state advisory service, control administration service, and others will move into the vacated offices.

[Shipitko] Surely all your problems do not simply amount to getting a roof over your head?

[Petrov] Of course not. Now that power has been won, the most important thing is to get the economy working. New power structures are needed to do this. They are well known: the president, vice president, state advisers, State Council, Security Council, Federation Council, and Cabinet of Ministers. Each of these structures works independently, helping the president to take various decisions.

But efficient, coordinated action is needed. That is where the president's apparatus comes in. I cannot be either between the president and the president's apparatus or above any of the structures. My task is to organize the activity of the apparatus, which must work for all power structures. Efficient planning is needed now. The spontaneity that was justified before will not

work now. Especially when so many people come to the president's office—most of them with the best possible intentions, of course, but usually with impromptu decisions and proposals. This requires regulation—it always has done in the past and will continue to do so in the future—otherwise the president would not be able to work properly. But contradictions and misunderstandings may arise, of course.

[Shipitko] Perhaps the struggle to influence the president is the same struggle that is being waged in his apparatus? The struggle over the choice and placement of cadres? There is a lot of talk about the "Sverdlovsk group"....

[Petrov] I am not the only one to have encountered accusations like these: The president has, too. Every leader has the right to choose a team that suits him, however. I have not had anything to do with any of the nominations. I would like these accusations to be withdrawn. I must point out that the Russian Government is not yet complete. But that is no reason to fight. In any case, I do not want to get involved. Attitude to work must remain the only criterion.

[Shipitko] Do you share the president's political views?

[Petrov] I would not have come to work here if I did not.

[Shipitko] But is the administration bound to share the political views of a leader, in this case the president?

[Petrov] Of course! Otherwise, how would you be able to work? The whole question is: To what extent should you share his views? You should always have your own opinion, after all. I am a member of the CPSU. I told Boris Nikolayevich about this when I gave him my consent. His reply was that it is my own affair. Now that the party has dissolved, I will probably join Rutskoy's party. Or the movement forming around Shevardnadze perhaps. But, I stress again, I see my main task as being to ensure that the Russian president's apparatus works in an efficient, coordinated fashion. I can assure you that there is no organized opposition or behind-the-scenes intrigue in this apparatus.

Personally, my interview with Yu. Petrov, head of the Russian president's administration, left me with mixed impressions. It goes without saying that everyone has the right to give his point of view on any event. But does the head of the administration—by no means the least important figure in the Russian president's entourage—have the right to ignore the intensifying political struggle in the corridors of Russian power? I. Silayev's resignation. Russian plenipotentiary Ye. Saburov's disavowal of his signature to the Treaty on an Economic Community. State Secretary G. Burbulis' statement that only Russia is the legal successor of the USSR, which has prompted a mass of conflicting responses. And the conflict in the Supreme Soviet between S. Shakhrai and R. Khasbulatov....

There are plenty more examples like these. They all make it plain that the absence of a clear, precise program concerning Russia's economic and political structure is

only exacerbating the situation. It is a painful, inevitable process. In my view, it is responsible for the bitter criticism aimed at the head of the administration. To be frank, it is a pity that Yu. Petrov did not want to state his views on the events in the White House more clearly.

State Council Meets, Advocates Radical Reform

LD2010092191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 0700 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Participants in yesterday's session of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic State Council advocated a course toward radical decisive reforms. Assessing the situation in the republic as difficult, they concluded that the situation was favorable for such measures, and it can no longer be hampered by the center.

In order to stabilize the situation in the localities and create conditions for economic reforms, it was proposed to bring about the cancellation of the Russian Supreme Soviet's decision to hold elections in December.

The question of land reform was the main topic of discussion. President Boris Yeltsin urged energetic action. It is not ruled out that a law on land will be submitted to the forthcoming Russian Congress of People's Deputies. The session endorsed a program for surviving autumn and winter which calculates resources and determines possibilities for maneuvering. Provision is made to liberalize prices in the November-January period, stipulating that prices of a limited list of goods remain under state control. It is also envisaged to implement the population's social security according to the resources of strictly specialized mechanisms—aid in kind, food coupons and specialized grants.

The government, having effectively found itself in retirement, must now get down to creating conditions for essential provisions to the population and maintaining the key sectors of the economy.

Democratic Party Consultative Council Meets

LD1910162391 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1235 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct (TASS)— Drafting the program documents and adopting the main clauses in the program of the Democratic Party of Russia (DPR) are the main outcome of the DPR Consultative Political Council session held on 15 October.

The party press center reported today that in the course of the session the role and place of Russia in the formation of a single economic and political body were discussed in detail. The need was confirmed for a union as a single federal state based on principles of voluntarism and complete equality of rights of the subjects of the federation. Issues relating to economic policy and military construction were also examined.

DPKR Party Holds Conference in Volgograd

Wants CPSU Ban Lifted

LD2010163891 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1452 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By Inna Biryukova]

[Text] Volgograd, 19 Oct (TASS)—The constituent conference of the Democratic Party of Communists of Russia [Demokraticeskaya Partiya Kommunistov Rossii] took place in the city on the Volga today. Delegates, whose powers were received by all those who sent statements before the putsch declaring they were joining this party, and also people's deputies of the Communists for Democracy [Kommunisty za Demokratiyu] group, voted for the creation of their own oblast organization and elected the leading bodies and delegates to the first congress.

Over 600 people took part in today's assembly of supporters of socially oriented parties of left-wing forces. The majority of its participants were veterans and former workers of the party apparatus. They discussed the fundamental principles and the tasks of the future party, elected an organizational committee and delegates to the all-Russia constituent congress. An appeal to the people of Volgograd to join a demonstration [manifestatsiya] on 7 November, and to the local authorities to give permission for that demonstration to be held was adopted at the assembly. The participants in the assembly protested the decree—which in their view is anticonstitutional—on suspending and essentially banning the CPSU and the RCP [Russian Communist Party], and demanded that it be revoked.

Rutskoy Views Proposal

LD2010155291 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Report by M. Zotov; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The first Moscow interregional conference of the Democratic Party of Communists of Russia [DPKR] was held in Moscow today.

[Zotov] It was stated at the conference that the DPKR is not to be a successor to the cause of the CPSU, or indeed the CPSU existing in a new guise. It would seem to be for this reason that delegates backed the proposal that in due course the party should be renamed as the Party of Free Russia.

[Begin recording] [Rutskoy] Well, this new party is structured on an entirely new principle. That is, the principle of having cultural and political centers....

[Zotov interrupts] Clubs, you mean?

[Rutskoy] Yes, clubs representing particular regions.

[Zotov] It is curious that the idea has arisen of so-called party sympathizers.

[Rutskoy] Well, the first thing is what sort of sympathizers. We also need to examine this. Most people in the Russian Federation—and indeed in the Union too—are simply fed up with the idea of a party being subconsciously linked to the idea of the Communist Party. Our party is structured on the principle of a parliamentary party, one which would stand up actively for the position of the people, whatever the structures of authority. [end recording]

Khasbulatov Greets Labor Collectives Congress

LD1910223391 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The Russian parliament will discuss another 80 draft laws before the end of the year, two-thirds of which will be aimed at providing a legal foundation for the economic reform, acting Chairman of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov stated today. He was speaking at the Second Congress of the Interrepublican Union of Labour Collectives, which ends today.

Khasbulatov urged the Union of Labour Collectives to cooperate actively with the republican parliament, when draft laws are being worked out, including direct participation in the work of parliamentary committees and commissions.

Then he responded to questions of delegates to the congress.

Commerce Chamber Meeting Elects New President

LD1910180191 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The constituent conference of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry ended in Moscow today. For the first time ever in the history of the Soviet Union Russia got the right to promote its commercial and industrial interests on the world market. Until today, all republics integrated in the USSR had their own chambers of commerce and industry, with the exception of the Russian Federation.

Stanislav Smirnov, master of sciences (economy) and Russian people's deputy, was elected president of the new institution. The conference approved the regulations of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Chairman of the Interrepublican Economic Committee Ivan Silayev and acting Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov sent messages of greeting to the conference.

A press conference was held after the end of the forum. It was announced there that the future of the national Chamber of Commerce and Industry would be decided at the conference of its founders, scheduled for November 1991.

Bank Chairman on Introduction of 'New Money'

LD2010204991

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 18 October, in its regular "TV Inform" newscast, broadcasts a 3.5-minute studio interview with Georgiy Gavrilovich Matyukhin, chairman of the Russian Central Bank, by program announcer Tatyana Komarova on whether the Russian Central Bank is ready to introduce new money.

Matyukhin says that this question has long been contemplated and "now preparatory work has basically been completed." "In the not too distant future we will evidently start printing money, but it does not have to be called Russian money yet." The money will have a mark that it was issued by the Russian Central Bank.

On the question of exchanging old money for new, Matyukhin says there will be no deadline. Money on savings accounts will be automatically replaced. However, with money kept at home, there will be a certain risk, although we think that for some time there will be parallel circulation of money with our mark and without our mark. Everything will depend on how other republics behave. If the other republics suddenly decide to introduce their national currencies, then evidently we will have to carry this out at an accelerated rate, he adds.

Regarding a rate of exchange, Matyukhin says: "Our main task, if republican money is issued, is then at least at the first stage that it must have an exchange rate of one to one."

Komarova asks: "What will happen if this happens to today's rubles?"

Matyukhin replies: "With today's rubles in our Russia, I can guarantee those Russian residents, as we call them, that is those who permanently live in Russia, that we are exchanging all this without any difficulties, but as far as representatives of other republics are concerned, then here of course we will not assume this function."

Commission To Discuss Income Indexing Bill

OW1910030591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [18 October], the Council of the Republic of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet discussed in the second reading and passed the bill on income and savings indexing. The other parliamentary chamber, the Council of Nationalities, turned the document down. A conciliatory commission has been set up to work out compromise suggestions and submit them to parliament.

Under the bill, income indexing is to take place after every 6-percent price hike; the ages of workers of all enterprises, offices and organizations regardless of the

property forms they are based on, will be subject to indexing. The latter provision is vigorously opposed by the government, the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Reform and Property, and the Council of the Republic's Commission on the Budget, Prices and Taxes.

The head of this commission Yuri Voronin warned that passing the bill in the form suggested by the Parliamentary Committee on Social Policy would cost the republic a huge sum of money and might entail a freeze on a number of social programs.

National Guard Plans Subordination to Yeltsin

LD2010212691 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0000 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Russia is planning to set up its own armed force—the National Guard—that will not be subordinate to the federal government. According to a member of the Russian parliament, Vitaliy (Urashchev), the guard will be subordinate to the Russian president. The force is expected to consist of 40,000 men armed with firearms, light armored vehicles, and several helicopters who will guard government buildings, combat terrorism, and perform some other functions. Vitaliy (Urashchev) said that the national guard has not been formed yet because there are no legal grounds for that; however, volunteers are already being listed. The guards are expected to work on three-, five- and seven-year contracts. The force is planned as an elite organization, and membership in it will be prestigious.

[Begin (Urashchev) recording in Russian with superimposed English translation] Selection will be very tough. We believe we should be very particular about the political views of the applicants. We will take special interest in what those people did before and during the putsch. [end recording]

While Soviet leaders are debating how to reform the Soviet Army, the new republics are forming national guards similar to the Russian one.

Komsomol Reorganizes as 'Youth League'

LD2010120691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] "Today I have a conference and I shall be spending the night there!" That is an old Komsomol joke. Well, today the first conference of the Komsomol of Russia began its work. Delegates made some changes to the organizations program and rules, and they changed its name to the Russian Youth League [Rossiyskiy Soyuz Molodezhi]. Notwithstanding the old joke, matters were sorted out well before midnight. It is intended that the organization should assume a public nature.

The conference was visited by Aleksandr Rutskoy, with the special mission of reading out a message to the delegates from Boris Yeltsin.

[Begin recording] [Romanovskiy] What about communist ideology? Will it still operate in the organization?

[Yelagin] I would say there will be just one ideology—the ideology of the young, the ideology of the renewal of society. We shall be convening again in six months' time to see what we've achieved. I think it will be a nice patchwork. [end recording]

KGB Discusses Security System With Republics

LD2010200391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The Russian KGB is holding talks with the relevant committees of the republics on creating an interrepublican body of collective security. Incidentally, in the future, it is possible that there will be talks not just on cooperation. The new leaders of the Soviet external intelligence have not excluded the possibility of carrying out operations, if required, on the territory of the republics which used to be part of the Soviet Union.

Local Affairs

Bashkir SSR Vote To Institute Presidency

LD1810230791

[Editorial Report] Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Network in Russian at 1630 GMT on 15 October, in its "TV Inform" newscast, carries a two-minute report on an extraordinary session of the Bashkir Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet held in Ufa today. In a report from the session, M. Gafurov says it discussed amendments to the Bashkir SSR Law on local self-government and the introduction of the office of president of Bashkirstan. The first question provoked stormy debate, with some deputies claiming that Russian President Yeltsin's position on elections of heads of local administration was not yet clear, so there should be no haste on this question, Gafurov notes. He says others countered that exactly a year ago the declaration on the state sovereignty of Bashkirstan was adopted, yet we are still acting with one eye on Moscow.

Gafurov then talks to M.Ye. Bugera, member of the Presidium of the Bashkir Supreme Soviet. He asks him if by setting up heads of local administration, we are creating the very administrative-command system we have been fighting to shake off. Bugera says if you look at the question as it is now being posed, i.e. as a change of purely executive power, this is imposition of the administrative-command system, but if the introduction of the head of local administration were to be accompanied by a strengthening of the legislative system, which is the

only way of creating responsibility for fulfillment of decisions in a law-governed state, then it would be a change in the right direction.

Gafurov says the question was debated for five hours and finally it was decided to carry it over to the next session, to be held at the end of October. The second question caused no trouble and the Supreme Soviet resolved that the office of president of Bashkir SSR should be instituted, and that he would be elected by the people.

Accompanying video shows the session of the Supreme Soviet of Bashkiria.

New Parties Announce Formation in Buryatiya

LD2010221591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Two new parties have simultaneously announced their formation in Buryatiya. A decision has been made to create a new Party of Communists of Buryatiya [Novoy Partii Kommunistov Buryatiya] in the republic at a meeting of an initiative group of CPSU members. The decision that has been adopted notes that the draft of the program of the CPSU—socialism, democracy, and progress—have been made as the basis of the party.

A conference which also took place today has proclaimed the formation of the republican branch of the Democratic Party of Russian Communists—Party of Free Russia [Partii Svobodnoy Rossii]. Thus there are now six parties of different orientation functioning in Buryatiya.

Chechen-Ingush Conflict Continues To Worsen

Yeltsin Demands Observance of Laws

LD1910125991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1213 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 19 Oct (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent a message to the leaders of the Executive Committee of the Chechen National Congress. The document notes that the cause of the conflict is to be found in the overtly unconstitutional and illegal actions of the Chechen National Congress Executive Committee and its leaders, who are striving to destabilize the situation in the republic and to take power.

All the measures that have been adopted within the framework of political negotiations have failed to bring about a restoration of calm and civil accord, notes the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president. On the contrary, the situation is becoming increasingly unpredictable. Such a situation cannot be tolerated.

Boris Yeltsin demanded that the leaders of the Chechen National Congress Executive Committee and their supporters end their unlawful actions and submit unconditionally to the law.

The message says that all occupied buildings must be evacuated, weapons surrendered, and illegally created armed formations disbanded within three days.

It also says that democratic elections for the Chechen-Ingush Supreme Soviet and a referendum on its state structure must be held on 17 November this year.

The RSFSR president warned that if these demands are not complied with, all measures provided for in the laws of the Russian Federation will be employed in the interests of normalizing the situation and ensuring the security of the population and the protection of the constitutional order.

Chechen Leaders Resist 'Actions'

LD1810162591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Grozny, 18 Oct (TASS)—The leaders of the forces that have risen up in Chechen-Ingush are refusing to submit to Russia. The pan-national congress of the Chechen People Executive Committee has decided to regard "any actions by the Russian center aimed at undermining the democratic processes in the republic to be a continuation of the genocide against the Chechen people." It is confirmed that the participation of deputies from the Chechen people in the work of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet will "have no legal foundation." These deputies nevertheless retain their mandates.

In the run-up to the elections scheduled for 27 October, five persons have been nominated as candidates for the post of president of the Chechen republic, with over 100 standing for the 41 parliamentary seats.

Intensive talks are in progress with those taking part in the mutiny in Grozny's investigative remand center. The republican newspaper GOLOS CHECHENO-INGUSHETII [The Voice of Checheno-Ingushetia] published a message from 46 detainees in the institution to Dzhakhar Dudayev, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Chechen congress, claiming the mutiny in the remand center was provoked by the administration. The same newspaper gave the head of the remand center the opportunity to reply. He called the facts adduced in the message "a foul and disgusting lie."

Reaction to Appeal 'Negative'

LD1910201691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1856 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Grozny, 19 Oct (TASS)—Reaction in Grozny to today's appeal from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to the leaders of the Executive Committee of the National Congress of the Chechen People has been very

negative. Speaking on local television, Khusain Akhmadov, deputy chairman of the Executive Committee, described the appeal and previous actions by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic leadership to stabilize the situation in the republic as "the last belch of the Russian empire," and "evidence of a desire to throttle democratic forces in the Chechen republic." Ikhan Gerikhanov, judge of a district people's court in Grozny, also speaking on television, said: "You are too late, Boris Nikolayevich. Our sovereignty is already functioning and will continue to do so."

At a demonstration being held outside the Checheno-Ingushetia Government headquarters, speakers are voicing determination "to uphold the people's right to national self-determination by all means available."

Dudayev Denounces Yeltsin Plea

*LD2010153191 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1436 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[Excerpts] Grozny, 20 Oct (TASS)—"The Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress shares the Russian president's alarm and anxiety. However, it cannot agree with his appraisal of the situation in Checheno-Ingushetia," Dzhakhar Dudayev, head of the Executive Committee told a TASS correspondent today. [passage omitted] "We have not yet received the document," Dzhakhar Dudayev said, but its wording, as reported by the media, has the nature of an ultimatum, and speaks of a prejudiced attitude rather than objectivity. They have already caused a new outburst of emotions among the people, who are following the example of Russia itself in their aspirations for democracy and freedom. Boris Yeltsin is valued and respected in Checheno-Ingushetia, and the opinion in the republic is that the Russian president is being presented with a completely distorted version of the events in Checheno-Ingushetia."

The leader of the Chechen national movement pointed out that "any decisions imposed from outside, as well as threats of the use of force and pressure, disagree with international legal norms and cannot be used against people who are fighting for freedom." "In this situation," he stated "the Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress is compelled to work out adequate measures of counteraction. People in many towns and villages of the republic received the Russian president's words as an open threat, and started to prepare for an active defense of their aims." According to Dzhakhar Dudayev, it was in the Islamic circles that the appeal met with a particularly negative reaction.

National Guard Transferred

*LD1910202991 Moscow All-Union First Program
Radio-1 Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[By Tamara Aliyeva]

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Chechen People's National Congress has decided to transfer the National Guard to its barracks, and to suspend the formation of a people's militia. It is prohibited to carry unregistered weapons in the republic.

However, the political aim proclaimed by Dudayev, leader of the congress, to create a Chechen republic, independent from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, and to hold elections for president and the parliament on 27 October, remains invariable.

Moscow TV Reviews Events

*LD2010203191 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Report by N. Shebalkov; from the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The leaders of the insurgent forces in Chechen-Ingushetia are refusing to submit to Russia.

[Shebalkov] There is even talk in Grozny of the introduction of a state of emergency. No success has been achieved in eliminating the hardline confrontation between the Executive Committee of the Chechen People's Congress and the Higher Provisional Council, and also between the Executive Committee and the Russian center. The latest delegation of Russian parliamentarians attempting to find ways to reach concord has gone away emptyhanded.

Local newspapers today carried a decision by the Executive Committee adopted precisely in connection with the exacerbation of the situation. Let me remind you that the Executive Committee is intending to hold elections for a president and parliament on 27 October. The same decision directs the law enforcement bodies to immediately stop provocative actions by deputies of the disbanded Supreme Soviet aimed at undermining the elections and destabilizing the political situation.

The building of the republic's Committee of State Security continues to be guarded by a Spetsnaz subunit. As you know, the activities of the committee were suspended by the Executive Committee. All of its offices are sealed and everyone is banned from entering them. The ban will operate until 27 October, that is, until the elections for the republic's Supreme Soviet. It seems that on the same day the guarding of television and radio premises by national guards will be lifted.

'Provocations Growing' Daily

*LD2010215191 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1555 GMT 17 Oct 91*

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Grozny, 17 Oct (TASS)—The situation is tense in Chechen-Ingush. The number of destabilizing factors and provocations is growing. This week, some unidentified persons, calling themselves members of the National Guard, disarmed the guard of a water reservoir in

Groznyy and escaped with four carbines, a small-calibre rifle, and a revolver from the guardroom. The night before, an attempt was made to break into the office of the editor of the republic's DAYMOKHK newspaper. Shots are being fired ever more often in the streets of Groznyy; however, shooting is so far being made into the air. The Executive Committee of the Chechen Congress, which leads the forces of the uprising in the republic, categorically denies any connection with these incidents and calls on the population to cooperate with the National Guard in catching the instigators. Such is the situation in which the elections of the president and the parliament of the republic, which are scheduled for 27 October, are being prepared. One could hardly attempt to predict today what their results will be and, indeed, whether they will take place at all. The republic's residents are, effectively, divided in two groups. One of them supports the Executive Committee of the pan-national congress of the Chechen people, led by retired General Zakhar Dudayev. The other demands that the legitimacy of the supreme provisional soviet which was set up by the former Supreme Soviet of Chechen-Ingush should be recognized. The following facts, among other things, allow to judge how polarized the opinions are. The session of people's deputies of Gudermesskiy Rayon, supported by a thousands' strong rally, decreed to approve the actions of the Executive Committee of the Chechen congress and to organize the elections on the territory of the rayon within the time limits, determined by the Executive Committee. However, in the mountainous Shatoyskiy Rayon, the "Sinkhetam" public-political movement published its program, in which it supports the supreme provisional soviet and demands an immediate dissolution of the National Guard. In case the latter demand is not observed, the program states, the movement "reserves the right to set up a guard of its own." There are quite a few people of authority in the republic, including Moslem spiritual leaders and members of the Russian deputies' group led by Umar Temirov, who are trying to bring the sides to an agreement by all means. The parliamentary delegation of Russia issued an appeal to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] president and the USSR Supreme Soviet in which it admits that the situation in Chechen-Ingush is explosive and states that in this extremely difficult situation some mass media "are issuing provocative statements and publications which cause considerable harm to the efforts made by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet deputies' group to stabilize the situation." Deputies, including RSFSR Procurator General Valentin Stepankov, ask for intervention so that "playing with fire" should be stopped. At the same time, the appeal reads, "we declare that no pressure from outside should be allowed." The Russian deputies declare that they believe in the wisdom of the republic's peoples and hope that they will be able to overcome the dangerous confrontation through political means. Delegations from neighboring north Caucasian republics and other regions are arriving in Groznyy. They support the actions of the pan-national congress of Chechen people.

In towns and villages of the mountainous region, citizenship of the Chechen Republic continues to be adopted.

Reform Party Leader Interviewed

PM2110100591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 91 Union Edition p 4

[Interview with Zh. Gakkayev, cochairman of the Republic Movement for Democratic Reforms, by correspondent A. Kazikhanov; place and date not given: "People in Checheno-Ingushetia Trying to Build a Bolshevik-Style Democratic Republic"]

[Text] The political situation in former autonomous entities in the Caucasus has reached boiling point. There are rallies in Makhachkala. There have been political hunger strikes and a two-week rally in Nalchik, and the resignation of the Kabardino-Balkar Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium. The dissolution of the Checheno-Ingushetia parliament. The leading structures of current sovereign republics that are part of the Russian Federation are collapsing under pressure from mass actions. What caused these crises: The drastic changes in the center or mounting revolutionary activity from below? What dangers now lie in wait for this new democratic process? I put these questions to Zh. Gakkayev, delegate to three Chechen congresses, cochairman of the Republic Movement for Democratic Reforms, and professor at the Chechen-Ingush University.

[Gakkayev] The democratic revolution that has taken place all over the country was bound to engulf Checheno-Ingushetia. In fact, despite new democratic slogans, the republic was led by forces belonging to the old totalitarian system. The Chechen-Ingush republic leadership's support for the putschists was the last straw. Had the Chechen-Ingush republic Supreme Soviet Presidium resigned when the people made their initial demands, as happened in neighboring Kabardino-Balkaria, perhaps the republic leadership would not have brought upon itself such a mighty wave of displeasure. Alas, the delayed resignation caused an abrupt deterioration of the situation and it was a miracle that the republic avoided a civil war.

[Kazikhanov] But can you build a democratic society starting with violence? After all, the Checheno-Ingushetia parliament was elected not in the stagnation period but only a year ago, on a democratic basis.

[Gakkayev] But that is only part of the truth. Can you describe them as democratic elections, seeing that the CPSU oblast committee leadership emerged from uncontested elections and the entire party-economic nomenklatura was pushing for deputies' seats? Was that parliament capable of democratic transformations? We could see that it was incapable. But how do you dissolve it if it does not want to be dissolved?

A considerable part of the republic's intelligentsia supported the Chechen People's National Congress Executive Committee by participating in a rally that lasted for days.

We could see that the Executive Committee was currently the only organized force capable of destroying the authoritarian system that was established in the republic. We also agreed that the square where the rally was taking place should be protected by barricades because there were rumors of possible intervention by Internal Affairs Ministry troops and even by the Army. We did not get worried immediately. But when young people appeared carrying weapons, when they started seizing state institutions, it became clear that things were taking a dangerous turn. The Chechen People's National Congress Executive Committee refused to disband the armed detachments even after the Chechen-Ingush Republic Supreme Soviet had surrendered its powers. The Chechen-Ingush Republic Provisional Supreme Soviet, set up for the period until legal elections, tried to overpower the Executive Committee; the Executive Committee announced the transfer of power to a provisional revolutionary committee and made the arbitrary decision to move the date of the election.

[Kazikhanov] But, Zhabrail Zhabrailovich, it seems to me that the country did not know whether multinational Checheno-Ingushetia applauded these revolutionary actions. Or did the Chechens carry out this revolution for the Chechens' sake?

[Gakkayev] All democratic forces in the republic were dreaming of a new leadership. So various democratic public organizations rallied around the Chechen People's National Congress Executive Committee. It was the dangerous development of events that revealed contradictions between them. Of course, the Chechen people's national sovereignty cannot stand for Chechen-Ingush republic state sovereignty, and the will and interests of the Chechen people cannot stand for the will and interests of its other peoples. And national self-determination in our conditions cannot be the same as the creation of an independent sovereign state. But the Chechen Executive Committee, although a public organization representing the interests of only part of the republic's population, has arrogated to itself the right to speak and act on behalf of all people of the Chechen-Ingush republic.

[Kazikhanov] A declaration has now been adopted on the creation of an Ingush republic as part of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]. A large number of Terek [Terskiy] Cossacks are demanding the revival of the Sunzha Cossack Okrug within its 1928 borders. Is there a way out of this situation? How do you stop the breakup?

[Gakkayev] What we need now is public regulating mechanisms and a quest for compromise solutions. For that purpose we members of the Chechen-Ingush intelligentsia created a new movement—Democratic

Reform. But if the Executive Committee does not heed our views, we have a referendum in reserve: The voice of the whole people.

Dudayev Comments on 'Interference'

PM2110145991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
21 Oct 91 p 3

[Interview with Dzhokhar Dudayev, chairman of the Chechen People's United Congress Executive Committee, by special correspondent V. Kharlamov in Grozny and Moscow; date not given: "The Chechens Are Tired of Waiting"]

[Text] Checheno-Ingushetia is preparing for elections. It is believed that of the five remaining candidates (the other contenders did not gain the necessary 10,000 signatures) it is D. Dudayev, chairman of the Chechen People's United Congress [CPUC] Executive Committee, who has the most realistic chances. In recent years the country's national and democratic movements have put forward many new names. One of these leaders is a "mutinous general." Who is he? Dzhokhar Dudayev, who, by all accounts, is the only person who has real power in the republic today.

He was born in 1944, on the eve of the resettlement of the republic's inhabitants from their native villages in the mountains of the Galanchezh region. He is a graduate of Tambov Higher Educational Establishment for Flight Engineers and the Gagarin Military Aviation Academy. He has gone all the way from student to general. He has served in Siberia, in the Ukraine, and in recent years in Estonia as commander of an aviation combined unit. He joined the CPSU in 1968 and has not yet left the party. In 1990 at the Chechen People's Congress he was elected chairman of the CPUC Executive Committee. His wife is Russian. They have three children.

"Our aim," he said in a conversation with your PRAVDA correspondent, "is to save the people from the fear of national and religious discord and to create a democratic state here, in this beautiful corner of the world, with equal rights for all regardless of nationality, religion, or political convictions."

[Kharlamov] Yes, but the methods the Executive Committee and the Republic Guard are using today are not always democratic, to put it mildly....

[Dudayev] Naturally. After all, excessive democracy leads to chaos rather than to democracy.... We cannot tolerate that.

[Kharlamov] What is the situation in the republic today from your viewpoint?

[Dudayev] I would say that there is a dangerous calm. Destructive forces, first and foremost Russian parliamentarians, who have essentially refused to negotiate with the CPUC, and also the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] leadership, are trying to destabilize the

situation in the republic and bring discord into our movement. But they will not succeed in doing that. Today the majority of parties and social movements, including the Vaynakhskaia Democratic Party, the "Islamic Path," the Green Movement, and the People's Front have recognized the Executive Committee's program and have formed a united bloc with us.

For our part we are doing everything we can to normalize the situation. Moreover, we are doing this in conjunction with our republic MVD. I have just now order the Republic Guard to return to barracks and hand over its installations to the MVD. Mobilization has been suspended, the Home Guard has been disbanded, weapons are being handed in to arsenals and reregistered. We are resolving all questions ourselves by peaceful means, without interference from Moscow, which is trying to impose colony status on us.

[Kharlamov] Yes, but all kinds of rumors and conjectures are going around....

[Dudayev] That the CPUC is threatening Rutskoy and Khasbulatov? That is a clear provocation! My representatives are now in Moscow submitting a request to the General Prosecutor to bring proceedings against the mass media which are circulating this type of disinformation, first and foremost Russian television and radio....

[Kharlamov] Where is Zavgayev, the republic's former leader?

[Dudayev] We know where he is hiding. Zavgayev has committed masses of crimes against his own people and he cannot escape his responsibility for that. But that is the last thing to worry about. The main thing now is the elections for the presidency and the new parliament. The people are tired of uncertainty, the people are tired of waiting.

[Kharlamov] And then there are the rumors of an imminent earthquake....

[Dudayev] Rumors? Our seismologists are 90 percent sure of it. On Saturday we elaborated a plan for joint action in the event of a natural disaster and the elimination of possible consequences....

Kalmyk Candidates Fail To Get Enough Votes

LD2010055591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0500 GMT 20 Oct 91

[By Pavel Shamrayev]

[Text] Elista, 20 Oct (TASS)—The results of the 19 October elections of the first president of the new sovereign Kalmyk Soviet Socialist Republic have been summed up. None of the three candidates to the supreme state office managed to get the necessary minimum of electors' votes. Less than two-thirds of the electorate took part in the voting.

As a result, the Central Electoral Commission of the republic decided to hold a second round of voting in the course of the next two weeks.

The ballot papers will bear the names of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Batyr Mikhaylov and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Vladimir Basanov, who received respectively 33.7 and 32.1 percent of the votes of the electors who took part in the first round.

Krasnodar Introduces Food Export Restrictions

LD2010213191 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Restrictions on the export of agricultural produce and food have been introduced in Krasnodar Kray by a decision of Vasiliy (Dyakonov), the head of administration. Bodies of internal affairs and state security with the help of Army subunits are instructed to organize mobile groups to ensure that the property of collective farms and farmers' holdings is kept intact in the rayons of the kray which are situated on its borders. Answering a Russian Information Agency correspondent as to what caused such measures, (Dyakonov) said that in the first instance they apply to adjacent republics, mainly Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, to where virtually everything was taken without any control. That is why with the purpose of stabilizing the consumer market of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic and Krasnodar Kray, restrictions are absolutely necessary, (Dyakonov) stressed, but temporary before a new procedure in relations with these republics is established. This applies only to illegally purchased agricultural produce and food and to their uncontrolled and tax-free export from Russia and kray. As to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, in (Dyakonov) words, here not restrictions but a well organized stock-taking is envisaged to know how much agricultural produce is grown in the kray and how much of it is exported to other regions.

Komi Official Opposes Mineral Reserves Policy

LD2110033691 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Interview with A. Shikhverdiyev, chairman of the Komi Economic Reform Committee, by Ye. Kuznetsov in Syktyvkar; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kuznetsov] The law drafted by the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic's Supreme Soviet on the republic's mineral reserves has not met with the approval of Russian authorities.

[Shikhverdiyev] This is not a serious way to approach the problem. They are suggesting that we pay 50 percent of our entire income—50 percent—into Russia's budget, and that we should be left with only 50 percent for ourselves. That is very little for us, very little indeed. If we did that we would not be able to run what could be called a normal economy in the republic.

[Kuznetsov] For Komi, minerals are of vital importance. This is an area that produces practically no manufactured goods and which supplies its wealth—timber, coal, oil, gas, gold, and diamonds—to everyone else, including those states that now enjoy the greatest sovereignty, leaving its own people living in these northern lands as paupers.

Komi Groups Cancel Supreme Soviet Protests

LD2110100391 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 2250 GMT 20 Oct 91

[By Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Syktyvkar, 21 Oct (TASS)—The coordinating councils of the democratic organizations of the Komi Republic and the Syktyvkar organization of the "Democratic Russia" movement have called on their supporters to refrain from holding a day of action demanding the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR]. They were planning to hold this action on 22 October, the day of the opening of the next session of parliament of the Komi SSR.

Their joint statement says the reason for giving up this action was the inclusion in the draft agenda of the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Komi SSR of questions "whose implementation opens up fresh opportunities" for achieving the aims mapped out by the recent First Congress of Democratic Forces of the Komi Republic.

Dmitriy Fedorov, cochairman of the republican Association of Democratic Organizations, told the TASS correspondent that the democrats intend to act according to the law. At the session, for instance, it is planned to examine the Bill "On the Komi SSR Referendum." Its adoption and coming into force would make it possible to involve the whole population of the republic in the resolution of the questions of the future activity of the Supreme Soviet. It is also planned at the session to adopt laws on the status of people's deputies, on the procedure for their recall, and other questions which would give the population an opportunity to influence the composition of parliament and its activity in a legal way.

At the same time the statement confirms the fundamental requirement of the need for dissolution of the present Supreme Soviet of the Komi SSR. The opinion is once more expressed that the present leadership of the republic is not capable of resolving the serious social problems of the region.

Moscow's Deputy Mayor Defends Administration

LD1910100891

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1955 GMT 15 October, on the "Without Retouching" program, carries a live 60-minute interview

with Moscow Deputy Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov by a group of unidentified newspaper reporters from the Respublika press center.

Before taking the first question, Luzhkov is allotted five minutes to describe the nature of the problems facing Moscow. Luzhkov says the food supply is the primary problem. Many suppliers fail to discharge their obligations, thinking Moscow is the best supplied city in the USSR. He likens the situation in Moscow to that in the country at large. Housing privatization is proceeding in a complicated manner, he says, while the consumer supply situation is no better. Trade and services must be privatized. Centralized supplies will account for about 30 percent of the city's total supply, he says, adding that Moscow has 50 percent of the supplies required for the winter. As for the problems of Russia and the Union, as a member of the Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy, Luzhkov says he is worried about food supplies as well as about the budget deficit, which he predicts may reach 300 billion rubles.

The first question in the interview comes from a MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI reporter, who asks about the attitude of the Ryzhkov and Pavlov governments to private business. Why is Moscow's government so relaxed about this problem? Luzhkov replies that Moscow has 10,000 cooperatives and about 20,000 entrepreneurs that account for a 9 billion ruble turnover in food and consumer goods. He notes that one-third of the city's revenue is derived from this source.

Next, a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS reporter asks about registration regulations. Luzhkov says these must be democratized. Each citizen must be free to move and choose his place of abode. Housing, however, must be provided. The housing shortage must be eased before regulations can be relaxed. Luzhkov says he expects this process to take 7 to 10 years.

An ARGUMENTY I FAKTY reporter asks why the worse things become, the higher up Luzhkov gets. Luzhkov responds by recalling his successes in Moscow in improving food supplies and storage. He remarks that losses have decreased during his term in office. He cites an example from another area: 3 million square meters of housing is commissioned, representing 140 percent of last year's level.

A ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reporter asks if Luzhkov thinks that republics that fail to join the union should pay hard currency for their fuel requirements. Luzhkov says that Baltic states must pay hard currency. He says he has proposed this to the Operational Management Committee. Many republics fail to pay into the Union budget. Therefore, the Russian Federation bears a disproportionate share of the burden. Luzhkov says he proposed that the Ukraine and Georgia be deprived of fuel resources until they resume payments.

A NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent asks Luzhkov if he is afraid of rapid promotion? No, says Luzhkov. He says he declined an offer of high office two

weeks ago, but does not identify the position. The reporter follows up, asking if Luzhkov is not a perfect example of the Peter principle. Luzhkov says that the essential quality of a manager is to be dissatisfied with oneself, as he is.

A TRUD correspondent asks if subordinates can be forced to be more conscientious. No, says Luzhkov, adding that he hopes to introduce intermediate management structures. He contends that irresponsibility reigns supreme throughout the Union. He calls for discipline and order in economic life. Moscow municipal employees will be required to sign contracts in an effort to increase discipline.

A MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA returns to the issues of housing privatization. Luzhkov says that any family can buy an apartment. No formal decisions have yet been made and no assessments have yet been carried out to establish prices, he says.

IZVESTIYA's reporter asks if the mayor, the Mossoviet or the Russian president is the most important figure in the city. Luzhkov says a precise demarcation must be made between the executive and representative authorities. More than 80 percent of Muscovites wanted mayoral rule to be established in their city. He says that Yeltsin's decrees will be obeyed. The interview concludes as Luzhkov defends the city against the assertions that Luzhkov leads the most corrupt management team in the world. Luzhkov denies the allegations.

Moscow KGB Official Discusses Arms Exports

LD1910183991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] The Russian Information Agency reports: The Soviet Union is not very welcome on the world weapons market. Therefore, it is necessary to use the market of those countries to which we used to supply weapons since they have bases for servicing our military equipment. This was stated by (Boris Dobrushkin), chief of the Sixth Service of the KGB Moscow Directorate. He spoke at a meeting of directors of defense enterprises of Moscow Oblast. Dobrushkin said that the KGB has made a list of what the Soviet industry can sell to the West. According to him, there are 50 "MiG-29" aircraft ready for sale at an aircraft enterprise. Enterprises of the military-industrial complex could sell gas-masks, engines, and cameras for taking panoramic pictures from space. However, Dobrushkin noted, in some cases the USSR Defense Ministry is against the deals.

Moscow Defense Complex Receives Aid From City

LD2010162491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Of the 2,000,000 staffers of the defense complex in Moscow, 400,000-500,000 people could be out of work in the near future. This was stated by Yuriy Luzhkov at the second congress of the Interrepublican

Union of Labor Collectives. Orientation toward conversion is necessary, Luzhkov said, but the way it has been implemented since 1985 is disgraceful. It was chaotic, senseless, without common goals and systemic tasks. In order to somehow save the situation a decision was adopted to allocate 0.5 percent, that is, 500 million rubles, from the city budget and to use it for orders to the military industrial complex. This is not a handout to the defense complex but the first attempt at establishing reasonable interaction and at using a most precious potential, which nobody should be allowed to destroy, either in the city or the country, Yuriy Luzhkov stressed.

Naurskiy Cossacks Want To Join Stavropol Kray

LD1910175191 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1633 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Grozny, 19 Oct (TASS)—Representatives of the Tersk Cossacks today published their understanding of the sociopolitical situation in Checheno-Ingushetia and ways out of the current crisis. They adopted a resolution at their assembly held in Naurskaya. It states: Bearing in mind that they may find themselves outside the borders of their genuine motherland—Russia—the local cossacks have decided to hold a referendum on Naurskiy Rayon joining the neighboring Stavropol Kray. Commissions have already been set up in the rayon, villages and settlements. The date for holding the referendum has not been set. The cossacks demand the immediate disarming and disbanding of illegal armed formations. They also announced that they are taking up the protection of the Lenin monument in Naurskaya.

Sakhalin Governor Supports Far Eastern Republic

LD2110061391 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 0100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[By Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 21 Oct (TASS)—The question of unconditionally keeping the South Kurils under Russian jurisdiction will be placed by Sakhalin's leaders on the agenda of the next session of the Far East Association of Soviets of People's Deputies, which opens in Khabarovsk today.

In the islanders' opinion, a new hotbed of tension is looming on the fatherland's eastern frontiers as a result of the reports of Russia's consent to hand over Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan, and Habomai over to Japan. The overwhelming majority of the Sakhalin and Kuril people support the tough position of Governor Valentin Fedorov: The South Kurils are Russia's territory and no one is entitled to give them up. This land belongs to the Russian people, and not to governments, and only the people living on it together with all Russians have the right to settle its destiny by the free expression of their will.

Valentin Fedorov will, at the association's session, support the idea of setting up a Far East Republic, to which he was previously extremely cool.

"If Moscow cannot defend Russia from national betrayal," he said in a conversation with a TASS correspondent, "then a Far East Republic must save Russia and Moscow itself from territorial repartition of the Kuril Islands. An economic tsunami must not be allowed."

Yeltsin Appoints Representative in Stavropol

LD2010185691

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 0200 GMT on 17 October broadcasts a three-minute report by correspondent Valeriy Uts saying that Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] President Boris Yeltsin has appointed RSFSR People's Deputy Aleksey Kulakovskiy as his personal representative in Stavropol Kray. Uts notes that prior to the August events, Kulakovskiy had been one of the few critics of Ivan Boldyrev, former first secretary of the Stavropol Kray committee of the CPSU, and now chairman of the kray soviet. Kulakovskiy said about Boldyrev: "I cannot understand how it is possible to fail to fulfill in such a demonstrative fashion the decisions made by Russia's organs of state power."

Sverdlovsk Head Wants Elections Postponed

PM2110131791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Unattributed account of letter from Sverdlovsk Oblast administration chief E. Rossel: "Another Shake-up of Executive Authority in Russia Could Be Disastrous for the People"]

[Text] As has been reported, Russian President B. Yeltsin has urged people's deputies and the republic's Supreme Soviet to postpone the election of administration chiefs set for December, as specified by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] law.

The IZVESTIYA editorial office has a letter sent by Sverdlovsk Oblast administration chief E. Rossel the other day to the president and Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, which provides detailed arguments concerning the inadvisability of implementing this law at the appointed time.

In particular, the letter says that the decision to hold the elections on 8 December does not square with the political and socioeconomic situation in the state and was made without assessing the possible consequences of its implementation.

In conditions whereby hyperrecession and hyperinflation are developing in the economy and the people are generally becoming increasingly dissatisfied with their situation owing to total impoverishment, and whereby some industrially developed regions are faced with a real

threat of famine, while for the second year running the government is displaying an inability to govern—the scheduling of elections and another shake-up of the entire executive organs system in Russia indicate that parliament is out of touch with reality....

The executive and administrative organs have faced three waves of renewal starting with the local soviet elections in 1990. Over an 18-month period 60 percent of executive committees' leading cadres have been replaced, and both the influence of higher government organs on lower ones and executive discipline have markedly declined.

Various regions of the RSFSR are beginning to act in accordance with the "Every man for himself!" principle. The first to feel the effect were krays and oblasts with underdeveloped agriculture, which received around a 50-percent food subsidy, more in terms of some types of products. During 1990-1991 the Ural region effectively experienced a blockade on deliveries of dairy products. In recent months we have faced the constant threat of a bread shortage and the introduction of bread rationing.

In these conditions executive power is a hostage of the economic and political situation. Unable to change the situation, and facing constant pressure and criticism from above and below, it can only tackle current questions at best.

The election of local administration heads in December 1991 in conditions of economic instability will automatically lead to a new round of executive committee changes, the paralysis of these committees, and a loss of governability at local and state level. All this is bound to aggravate the situation of the central government, RSFSR president, and people in the 1991-1992 winter period.

The uncertain legal status of local administration chiefs, the lack of an RSFSR law "On the Government of the Kray and Oblast in the RSFSR," and, above all, the very complex socioeconomic situation are not contributing to the nomination and election of the most competent and authoritative people. In this connection, the potential of the newly elected cadres would not be high enough.

Elections will lead to the violation of the legal status of RSFSR local soviets of the 21st convocation. Since they are not relinquishing their powers, the introduction of the law on the election of local administration chiefs creates a dangerous precedent of the use of new legal norms to regulate old legal relations and violates the general principle whereby the law is not retrospective.

The situation can be resolved either by dissolving local soviets and holding new elections at the same time as electing the local administration chiefs, or by appointing local administration chiefs to be kray and oblast administration chiefs, previously appointed by the RSFSR president, until the term of the soviets of the 21st convocation expires.

In today's conditions one of the chief tasks the executive organs face is that of ensuring stability in society, restructuring the economy, preserving the single economic space, and preventing famine and chaos.

We urge the RSFSR president and RSFSR people's deputies to realize that the people's confidence in the state and the authorities is at its lowest ebb. There is no time for experiments.

Finno-Ugrians Reject Draft Constitution

*LD2110000991 Moscow TASS in English
1657 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[By Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Syktyvkar October 20 TASS—Participants in a meeting of representatives of national movements, sociopolitical and ethnic cultural societies of Finno-Ugrian peoples who live in the country decided to set up an association, the founding conference of which is to be held in the capital of the Republic of Komi in December 1991.

A special statement adopted at the meeting, which ended there last night, has it that its participants consider "unacceptable the official draft constitution of the Russian Federation in that part which concerns the observance of the sovereign rights of the nation-state entities of Russia and their economic foundations."

The draft constitution is based on the principle of unitarian approach in the federative structure of multi-ethnic Russia, the document says. The principle has fully discredited itself historically and ignores the realities of the current process of the sovereignisation of peoples.

Participants of the meeting urged the public of Finno-Ugrian and other peoples in the Russian Federation to support their statement and join in the drive for the convocation of a constituent congress of the peoples inhabiting Russia. It is such a congress that should decide on the future of the Russian state and the rights of its peoples.

Representatives of the movements and societies of Finno-Ugrian peoples who live in the USSR sent a special message to the organisation of peoples that are not represented at the United Nations.

The message expresses concern over the forthcoming reforming of the nation-state structure of the Russian Federation.

Democratic Russia Issues Statement on Tatarstan

*LD2010190491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1300 GMT 17 Oct 91*

[Text] The Democratic Party of Russia has issued a statement regarding the situation in Tatarstan. Of late irresponsible political forces have become active in that republic which are insisting on the Supreme Soviet of

Tataria adopting a decision on independence and later on the secession of Tatarstan from the Russian Federation, it states in the document. They have managed to get this issue included on the agenda of the parliamentary session, despite the fact that half of the deputies initially opposed it.

The population of Tatarstan has an extremely skeptical attitude to the formulation of this issue, which is evidenced by the results of polls taken both among residents of indigenous nationality and among the Russian speaking population. In this situation attempts are being undertaken to exert pressure on residents, to create an atmosphere of threats, intimidation, and terror. Confirmation of this came in the events of 15 October in Kazan, when members of the Tatar Public Center, with the connivance of the authorities, undertook attempts to organize provocations and riots in the city and to exert pressure on the republic's Supreme Soviet. In this connection, the Executive Committee of the Democratic Party of Russia considers it necessary to state the following: First, it is concerned about the fact that under the flag of national self-determination, adventurist forces are pushing the Republic of Tatarstan into a chaos of national hostility, instability, and bloodshed. The Democratic Party of Russia considers it necessary to hold a referendum on the territory of the republic regarding the issue of national independence. The president of Russia should undertake urgent measures to resolve the conflict situation that has taken shape in Tatarstan. The Democratic Party of Russia is calling upon all democratic forces of Tatarstan to unite in the struggle for the observation of human rights, irrespective of a person's national affiliation.

Official Quoted on German Republic on Volga

*OW1910033891 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1400 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Horst Waffenschmidt, a senior official of Federal Germany's Interior Ministry and head of the FRG delegation to the first congress of Soviet-based Germans in Moscow, has told IF [INTERFAX] that the German Republic on the Volga, expected to undergo a rebirth with assistance from the FRG Government, may become a prototype of a common European home. Mr. Waffenschmidt reaffirmed Germany's desire to have as many Germans as possible stay in the Soviet Union.

On the eve of his departure for the USSR he met with German businessmen who promised that considerable investments would be made in the economic development of the Volga republic. Among the projects already under implementation in Soviet areas where Germans live in compact communities Mr. Waffenschmidt listed the construction of a bakery and a cheese-making factory in Omsk, Siberia, and the opening of professional retraining courses for Soviet-based Germans in the FRG.

According to him, the German Interior Ministry is now discussing some 100 projects of this kind.

The German official expects FRG assistance to improve the living standards of ethnic Germans as well as those other Soviets living side by side with them, and thereby rule out the use of this assistance as an instrument of fanning interethnic hostility in the Soviet Union.

Official at German Congress Predicts 'Mutiny'

*LD2010181291 Moscow Russian Television
Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Oct 91*

[Video report by correspondent A. Yurov from Congress of Soviet Germans held in Moscow on 18 October, including recorded remarks by G. Grout, chairman of Rebirth, the All-Union Society of Soviet Germans, at congress; from the "Vesti" program presented by Svetlana Sorokina]

[Text] [Yurov] The first congress of Soviet Germans began in Moscow's Oktyabr cinema hall today. Its main objective is to reestablish statehood as quickly as possible. The meeting began with a message from Mikhail Gorbachev to the congress. It was read out by Aleksandr Yakovlev. Gorbachev called on the delegates to pool their efforts to seek a solution to the problems of statehood.

Leonid Prokopyev, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] State Committee for Nationalities' Affairs, told the congress about the Russian Government's action program under which the Germans would obtain autonomy in stages. Dr. Horst Waffenschmidt, the FRG Government's plenipotentiary representative on migrants, spoke in similar terms. He added that the FRG has already drawn up a program of assistance. The congress decisions will strengthen the friendship between Russians and Germans, he said.

Nevertheless, the congress is not likely to go smoothly.

[Grout] I can tell from the mood of the hall and my knowledge of the situation that what Prokopyev said is less than nothing. It is a minus. We do not expect to hear of such decisions, such periods of waiting. There will be outrage—civilized outrage, of course. There will be mutiny.

[Sorokina] It has been learned that next year the FRG Government will allocate 7 million German marks for the establishment of an autonomous German Republic. Certain observers regard this decision as a signal intended to encourage Germans not to leave the USSR.

TV Program Views Problems of Soviet Germans

*LD2110030591 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1512 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[Text] Moscow, 19 Oct (TASS)—USSR Central Television today broadcast a Saratov-Moscow telebridge devoted to the problems of Soviet Germans. Ramazan

Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet; Leonid Prokopyev, former chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for National Issues; (Gaster), representative of the FRG; Heinrich Grout, chairman of the "Revival" society of Soviet Germans; and representatives of Saratov oblast took part in the telebridge.

The participants in the telebridge expressed their views with regard to resolving the problems of Soviet Germans. The possible revival of the republic of Volga Germans in accordance with the law on the rehabilitation of the repressed peoples was at the top of the agenda.

The participants in the telebridge shared the opinion that the law should be implemented step by step without encroaching upon the rights of the people in the area where the republic might be recreated.

There were also proposals to create cultural centers for Soviet Germans, such as universities, schools, and publishing houses.

Vorkuta To Propose Economic Free Zone

*LD2110034291 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak
Network in Russian 2330 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[Text] The preparation of documentation, calculations, and feasibility studies has begun in Vorkuta in order to establish an economic free zone in this Arctic mining town. At the instruction of the recent extraordinary session of the Vorkuta town soviet, the work is being supervised by its executive committee. A number of town soviet deputies have been the driving force behind the idea of an economic free zone ever since they failed to win broad support for their proposal for Vorkuta to secede from the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic. It is hoped that the economic free zone will enable the Arctic town to resolve its numerous, acute problems; revive its main industry, coal mining; and speed up the switch to a market economy.

International Affairs

Pechory Rally Protests Estonian Land Claims

*LD1910200991 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1724 GMT 19 Oct 91*

[By Boris Vlasov]

[Text] Pskov, 19 Oct (TASS)—"No to the redivision of borders," "Pechory is with Russia forever." These slogans appeared today on the square near the building of the city soviet of Pechory, an ancient Russian city. The speeches by those who spoke at the rally were devoted, according to an announcement made at its opening, to "defending Pechory's lands against claims on the part of the Estonian Republic" and all had the same thrust. It

was organized by the public committee to preserve the Pechory Rayon as part of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic.

"We have gathered," its chairman N. Bogdanov said, "to draw the attention of the entire Russian Republic once again to the anxiety which we, the people of Pechory, have been living with over the past few years. For several years now a certain section of Estonia's political figures have been speaking out in favor of annexing the Pechory Rayon. A decree by the Supreme Soviet of Estonia of 12 September which makes the territory of the Pechory Rayon Estonian was the latest act. There has been no action in response to this on the part of Russia."

After the rally, the TASS correspondent asked Anatoliy Montarovskiy, chairman of the Pechory Rayon Soviet of People's Deputies, how real were the fears of the population of Pechory that they would end up as part of the neighboring republic. After all, Arnold Ruutel, chairman of its Supreme Soviet, recently stated that Estonia does not have territorial claims on Russia.

"None of us has any faith any longer in words," he replied. "They say one thing and do another. First of all, the well-known decree of 12 September is passed and then the congress of citizens of Estonia takes the decision to appeal to international bodies for help should Russia refuse to return territories to Estonia."

The resolution adopted by the participants in the rally expresses the hope that the Supreme Soviet of Russia, its president and government will give "firm written guarantees to defend the Pechory Kray against the territorial claims of Estonia." They are also in favor of maintaining good-neighborly relations with the inhabitants of the Pylva and Vyru Rayons of Estonia.

St. Petersburg, Estonia Reach Travel Accord

LD2010164591 Moscow Radio Rossiya Network
in Russian 2200 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Residents of the St. Petersburg region will have the right to visit the Republic of Estonia without visas. An agreement on this was reached by the Estonian and St. Petersburg authorities. This was revealed by the Mayor's Office of St. Petersburg on 17 October. The same rights have been given to Estonian residents. In this case, to cross the Estonian-Russian border it will be necessary only to produce a passport.

Group Prepares Agreements With Baltic States

LD1910103591 Moscow TASS International
Service in Russian 1926 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct (TASS)—A meeting of the working group of people's deputies that is preparing interstate agreements for ratification between the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia has been held in the RSFSR House of the Soviets today, the press service of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium reports.

Aleksandr Granberg, chairman of the Committee for Issues of Interrepublican Relations, Regional Policy, and Cooperation, who is head of this group, outlined its main tasks and organizational structures in his report.

It is envisaged that the agreements will be ratified at the sitting of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet in the second half of November.

Japanese-U.S. Group To Develop Oil Field

LD2110003291 Moscow TASS in English 2302 GMT
20 Oct 91

[By correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo October 21 TASS—The development of the oil and gas field on the northeastern shelf of the Sakhalin island will evidently become the greatest-ever joint economic venture involving the Soviet Union, Japan and the United States.

The YOMIURI newspaper cited an unnamed ranking Soviet official today as saying that the contract to tap the natural riches will be granted to a consortium, including the Japanese semigovernmental Sodeko company and the U.S. Exxon oil corporation. The official announcement of the decision is expected on November 1.

Six transnational groups with the participation of 14 major corporations—six Japanese, five American, one Anglo-Dutch, one South Korean and one Australian—competed to win the contract worth an estimated 6 billion U.S. dollars.

The committee, including representatives of the Soviet Federal and Russian Governments, as well as the Sakhalin administration, selected the Sodeko-Exxon group because the consortium proposed an impressive comprehensive plan for improving the Sakhalin infrastructure, complete with building new housing, hospitals, roads and communications lines.

The decision was eventually made in favour of the Japanese-American consortium owing to the fact that Tokyo made Sodeko's participation in the Sakhalin project a preliminary condition for Tokyo's overall assistance to the Soviet Union.

The Japanese Government, according to IOMIURI, intends to actively support the project by allowing the Export/Import Bank to issue low-interest credits to the Soviet Union.

The government is proceeding from the assumption that the realization of the project will enable Japan to diversify sources of oil and natural gas supplies to the country, while facilitating the Soviet Union's economic recovery.

The Sakhalin oil and gas fields are expected to start production in 1995. The bulk of extracted oil and gas, IOMIURI notes, will be imported in Japan, the rest will go to the Soviet Far East.

Dispute Continues With Japan Over Kurils

Sakhalin Governor Against Transfer

LD1910081191 Moscow TASS in English 0752 GMT
19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The governor of Sakhalin off the Soviet Pacific coast today made a strong plea against the transfer of four South Kuril Islands to Japan.

In a PRAVDA article headlined "Russia Does Not Have Land To Spare", Professor Valentin Fedorov said Japan had a chance to decide the Kuril Islands issue, but that chance was passed up when it signed a military pact with the United States.

Arguing against the islands' transfer to Japan, he said:

"(Soviet) Far Eastern fishermen catch 1.5 million tonnes of fish off these islands, and great shoals of fish come to the (Soviet) Pacific coast and into the Amur River by the straits. Japanese poachers stand in their way, blocking the straits with fishing nets. They do it today in our own waters. Just imagine what will happen when they become the masters there."

Fedorov said that when attempting to resolve the territorial problem in Soviet-Japanese relations, it is inappropriate to invoke the 1956 declaration.

"New realities have arisen: life does not stand still, and it is essential to look for modern answers to modern realities," he said.

Fedorov Remarks

OW1910195391 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1353 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chief Sakhalin administrator Valentin Fedorov has accused Russia's leadership of attempts to use the Kurils dispute with Japan as a "lightning rod" at a time when "society may explode from within any moment now." In his Saturday interview for the daily PRAVDA he said "the failure of the August coup revealed that the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] leaders, the 'naked kings,' are unable to deal with urgent problems." According to Mr. Fedorov, their only concern at present is "how to stay in power as long as possible."

The Sakhalin governor warned that the loss of the Kuril Archipelago would annually leave Russia without 1.5 million tons of fish (costing an estimated \$1 billion in world prices), and "thousands of people will lose their jobs."

V. Fedorov charged Russian politicians with failure to separate their interests from the interests of foreign states: "They sit on the different sides of the negotiating table but think the way the Japanese do."

In the meantime, the daily IZVESTIYA has called for the observance of the inviolability of the post-war borders, but noted that the transfer of two Kuril Islands, Shikotan and Habomai, to Japan under the 1956 Soviet-Japanese declaration would not damage this principle. In its Saturday editorial IZVESTIYA observes that "Khrushchev promised it but changed his mind; the present administration had better avoid cheating Russia's neighbors."

The newspaper suggests that the whole of the big Kuril Archipelago (and not only the southern Kurils) be offered to Japan for long-term lease "on any conditions; the main thing is to keep the borders intact."

Kurilskiy Rayon on Border Revision

LD2010191291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Oct 91

[By correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Kurilsk (Sakhalin Oblast), 17 Oct—There are no grounds for revising the postwar borders, and Russia's loss of jurisdiction over the Kuril Islands will initiate "a series of interstate and intra-Union conflicts". This view was expressed by a number of deputies of the Kurilskiy Rayon Soviet, whose session ended on Wednesday [16 October].

By a decision of the session, a statement was sent to the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] presidents and to the USSR and RSFSR Supreme Soviets on the need to strengthen the protection of the border and the 200-mile economic zone, and to retain a military contingent on the islands as a stabilizing factor and a guarantor of security.

In a critical situation in which the islands might be lost, a declaration of the Kurils' sovereignty cannot be ruled out, local residents consider.

During the work of the rayon soviet session, the deputies adopted a decision to confirm the creation of a "Kurils Defense Committee," and to declare 6 June a festival of the islands' inhabitants. On that day in 1778, the Ainu—representatives of a small ethnic group who have inhabited the Kurils, Sakhalin, and Hokkaido since ancient times—were granted Russian citizenship.

Workers Hold Political Strikes

LD2010232791 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Political strikes took place in Sakhalin Oblast at coastal enterprises and on the fishing fleet. The actions were in response to results of the Moscow talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama. The strikers demanded that the unconditional sovereignty of Russia be retained over the southern Kurils, which the Japanese side is trying to claim.

Fishermen Protest to Yeltsin

*LD2010163391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Oct 91*

[Text] The working collectives of the Kamchatka Oblast fishing industry have sent a note to Russian President Boris Yeltsin protesting the possible handing over of the four South Kuril Islands to Japan. The fishermen believe that such a decision will cause irreparable damage to the economy of our republic, especially of the Far East; that it will lead to the financial bankruptcy of many enterprises in the sector; and that it will result in mass unemployment.

Maritime Kray Opens Road Link to China

*LD2010090891 Moscow Central Television Vostok
Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT
16 Oct 91*

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Excerpt] A cross-border road linking Jilin, a major province in east China, and Maritime Kray has been just opened between the two states near Lake Khasan. This is a goal both countries have sought for 46 years. Routine cargo shipments, including food, have started along this new route. Before the end of this year, the Maritime Kray will receive 15,000 tonnes of potatoes from their neighbors. Previously, potatoes were supplied here from distant Siberia.

The main importance of this border link is that it will promote the efficient development of economic ties between Jilin Province and the entire southern Far East. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Receives FRG Bundesrat President

*LD1910120691 Hamburg DPA in German 1113 GMT
19 Oct 91*

[Text] Moscow (DPA)—In the view of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the success of the coup in the Soviet Union two months ago would not only have meant a relapse into despotism and millions of dead but might also have meant a hot war. Yeltsin said this today in Moscow during talks with Bundesrat President Henning Voscherau. The Russian president received Voscherau for half an hour of talks at his office in the Kremlin. According to Voscherau, Yeltsin stated he was aiming for a federalist constitution which was apparently to be based in part on the German Basic Law. So far, 130 constitutions from all over the world had been assessed.

According to Voscherau, Yeltsin made it clear that he was not always in agreement on constitutional issues in discussions with Head of State Mikhail Gorbachev. Yeltsin saw a comprehensive disbandment of Union ministries being preprogrammed, particularly after the conclusion of the Economic Treaty between eight of the 12 republics. During the talks, in which St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak also took part, Yeltsin had

strongly emphasized the building up of an autonomous Russian state and its own identity.

"However, I would consider it wrong to consider this nationalism," Voscherau said. There was obviously a great political and psychological need to catch up on finding oneself in Russia. Yeltsin welcomed the President of the Bundesrat with the announcement that Russia intends to revive some pre-revolutionary orders. "I even had some words for a new Russian National Anthem brought to me yesterday and today," Yeltsin reported.

Voscherau again suggested creating comprehensive exchange programs for Soviet trainees in Western companies. Yeltsin had pointed out that it had been agreed with Japan, the United States, and Great Britain to have 20,000 young Soviets learn about the market economies there. "Germany would also have a task here," the Bundesrat president said.

Voscherau, who was accompanied by the Vice President of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHT), Klaus Asche, during his two-day visit to Moscow, yesterday had talks with Gorbachev. After lunch with Sobchak, the Bundesrat president and mayor of Hamburg intends to fly back to Hamburg this afternoon.

Mitterrand, Kozyrev on Yeltsin's Future Visit

*LD1210112991 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1710 GMT 11 Oct 91*

[By correspondent Igor Kuleshov]

[Text] Paris, 11 Oct (TASS)—French President Francois Mitterrand received today Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is here on an official working visit as head of a Soviet delegation for preparing a visit to France by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The date for Boris Yeltsin's trip, which is provisionally scheduled for early next year, will be defined by diplomatic channels, the minister told journalists after the meeting. Both sides think that this visit, which will have an important political nature, should be well prepared and filled with concrete contents in the form of bilateral agreements on the development of direct relations between Russia and France. The visit will also have symbolic importance signifying the revival of deep historical ties which exist between Russia and France. Kozyrev also met Elisabeth Guigou, state minister for European affairs, and discussed the development of cooperation between Russia, France, and the EC. A meeting between Kozyrev and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is also planned for today.

Mayor Sobchak, German Leaders View Food Aid

*LD1210124491 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1242 GMT 11 Oct 91*

[By correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Excerpts] Bonn, 11 Oct (TASS)—Food aid to the USSR and the situation in the USSR were at the center of conversations in Bonn today between St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and Bundestag President Rita Süssmuth. [passage omitted]

The main subject of all our conversations, the St. Petersburg mayor told a TASS correspondent, was providing large-scale food aid to the USSR. I proposed the following special procedure for its provision: the goods that are coming into the USSR must go on sale for rubles through the existing trade system. The proceeds will be kept in a special investment fund and will be channelled into the development of farming. This would mean that small farms will no longer have to borrow from the state but from entrepreneurs. A powerful incentive will be provided for developing agriculture and for tackling food problems so that we can cease being beggars and consumers and can have sufficient supply of necessary foods. The German leaders, Anatoliy Sobchak continued, confirmed their adherence to the idea of preserving the USSR as the state. What it should be like must be the internal affairs of the state-republics themselves forming the USSR. The West needs to know with whom it can deal and who it can choose as a reliable partner, that is without considering defense and other strategic problems.

The Western countries are concerned that political and economic stability be preserved in the USSR and that the USSR overcomes the crisis phenomena currently under way there. Effectively, there is no government at present either in the Union or in Russia. This creates additional difficulties, while arousing concern among our partners and holding up the adoption of decisions which are so necessary for our economy. We ourselves add even more to these difficulties by letting political

passions run high and by our inability to reach accord and to exercise a sober approach to concluding the Union treaty, the text of which has long been ready. In one minute we agree to sign a treaty on economic union, and in the next Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic representatives refuse to acknowledge the signature they have themselves put to it. This leads to the EC countries and other Western states suspending their aid. Furthermore, I have been told with all certainty that if the USSR's disintegration is allowed to continue, it will be difficult for us to count on any serious aid, including food aid. Western countries must know to whom and to what effect they give their aid, the St. Petersburg mayor said.

Judges' Conference Advocates Return of Juries

LD1910035191 Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT
18 Oct 91

[By correspondent Yuriy Soltys]

[Text] Moscow October 18 TASS— The first congress of Russia's judges ended in Moscow on Friday [18 October].

The congress was attended by about 550 delegates from various Russian regions, sovereign states and their colleagues from Belgium, the United States, Germany, France and Sweden.

Vyacheslav Lebedev, chairman of the Russian Supreme Court, told TASS the congress adopted a package of bills, which will be submitted to the Russian parliament.

The proposed radical reform of the judicial system in Russia includes the reestablishment of the jury, which existed in pre-revolutionary Russia, and specific measures to raise the prestige of judges, increase their salaries and improve legal protection.

Moldova**Economic Treaty Signing Doubtful**

OW1810192791 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1735 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The leaders of Moldova cannot sign the economic-community treaty before studying its final variant," said Moldovan president, Mircha Snegur.

He said the Moldovan leaders doubted the expediency of signing the treaty in the absence of a final variant, amended as proposed by the Russian Federation and the Ukraine.

The delegation of Moldova has not left for Moscow to participate in the signing ceremony.

The Ukraine and Azerbaijan have also refused to sign the treaty.

Non-Voting Observers to Soviet Parliament Sent

AU1810182791 Paris AFP in English 1739 GMT
18 Oct 91

[Text] Chisinau [Kishinev], Soviet Moldova, Oct 18 (AFP)—The Moldovan parliament decided Friday [18 October] to send a nine-man observer group to attend the opening session of the new Soviet Supreme (parliament), but agreed the team should not take part in any votes.

The parliament also stripped two previously-elected Moldovan deputies of their membership in the Supreme Soviet, saying they were "no longer representative" of the Moldovan people.

The observer group, led by Mosnea Dimosce, would take part only in parliamentary debates concerning Moldovan independences, according to the resolution approved by the Moldovan parliament.

The first session of the new Soviet Supreme, re-modelled by the Congress of People's Deputies following the August coup d'etat, was due to open Monday [21 October].

However officials in charge of preparing the session said earlier this week that only six of the country's 12 republics had completed selection of delegates to attend the opening session.

Ukraine**Genscher, Kravchuk Discuss Joint Issues**

LD1910113291 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 2110 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Correspondent V. Lyaskalo video report; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Following his visit to Kazakhstan, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, vice chancellor and minister of foreign affairs of

the FRG, arrived in the Ukraine and today had talks with Leonid Kravchuk, chairman of the Supreme Soviet. He also met other leaders. I have now seen for myself, Genscher declared at a news conference, that despite certain differences of view that we have been told about, the Ukraine is still extremely interested in being in a single economic space, not just within the Union, but also within the single Europe that we are all building. I was also glad to learn here that the Ukraine has no claim to nuclear weapons. Hans-Dietrich Genscher attended the opening German culture week in the Ukraine.

Nuclear Arms, Politics Noted

LD1810175291 Hamburg DPA in German 1329 GMT
18 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Kiev (DPA)—A diplomatic recognition of the Soviet republics that have declared themselves independent is at the moment out of the question for Bonn. Such a step is currently not the issue, Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said after his talks with the Ukrainian leadership in Kiev today. Bonn expects that the republics will reach an agreement about how they will organize themselves in the future. A course of confrontation on this issue needs to be avoided. In Kiev, like he had done during his talks in the Kazakh capital, Alma-Ata, Genscher referred to the EC model of a planned economic and monetary union.

Genscher expressed satisfaction about the fact that the political leadership in Kiev, which is steering a radical course of independence from the central government and from Russia, continues to be interested in an economic association of all republics. However, Kiev rejected the draft agreement on economic union which was to be signed by nine republics in Moscow today.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk assured Genscher that all nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of the republic would be withdrawn, and all these systems would later remain under one central control. Agreements were made on the opening of a Goethe Institute in Kiev, and on the establishment of a Ukrainian general consulate in Germany. With reference to the recent incident at Chernobyl, Genscher demanded that the security regulations in all Soviet nuclear installations be upgraded to strict Western standards. [passage omitted]

In the afternoon, Genscher visited the Babi Yar memorial. In this ravine near Kiev, 50 years ago, German death squads killed tens of thousands of Ukrainian Jews within a few days. [passage omitted]

Genscher is due to leave Kiev for Bonn this evening.

Joint Talks Continue

LD1810173691 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1415 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By Ukrinform correspondent Ivan Sayko]

[Text] Kiev, 18 Oct (TASS)—Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FRG vice federal chancellor and foreign minister, who

is staying in Kiev in connection with a week of German culture which is being held in the Ukraine, met Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman Leonid Kravchuk today. In the course of a sincere conversation, they talked in particular about Ukraine's attitude to the interrepublican economic agreement, the problems of nuclear weapons, and the existing borders. It was noted that Ukraine will not embark upon the path of separatism and isolation from the outside world. It was and will be in favor of creating single economic space and of various types of ties, including ties with former union republics. But it will only sign a treaty which renders assistance to the establishment of Ukraine's statehood, which will do good to its people, and only after this agreement is examined by the government and by the parliament. This is why today the Ukraine does not have any intention to sign the suggested interrepublican agreement.

Talking about nuclear weapons now based on the territory of the four republics, Leonid Kravchuk stressed that they cannot be transferred from one republic to another. There should be one authority in charge of such weapons. The Ukraine, as was stated at the United Nations during meetings with George Bush and Francois Mitterrand, favors the complete destruction of nuclear weapons and is prepared to participate in all international agreements on this issue.

Having positively assessed disarmament initiatives presented by the U.S. President, and counter proposals presented by the USSR president, H.D. Genscher noted that the European and world communities would not like to see the expansion of the amount of nuclear weapons owners because this would complicate disarmament processes.

It was stated from both sides that the existing borders between the states and between the republics should remain stable. Issues of their revision will lead to the emergence of dangerous conflicts.

Problems connected with the elimination of consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station accident, improving work safety at all nuclear stations of both states, and other vital matters affecting vital interests of the European and world communities were touched upon during the conversation.

Genscher Holds News Conference

LD1810231791 Moscow TASS in English 2243 GMT
18 Oct 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Aleksey Petrunya and Aleksey Trotsenko]

[Text] Kiev, October 19 TASS—German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has described his visit to the Ukrainian capital as fruitful and very useful.

He told a news conference in Kiev on Friday [18 October] the Ukraine and Germany have long-standing historic, economic and cultural ties, which should develop.

He said, however, these ties were marred during the Second World War.

Genscher stressed his visit to Kiev should be viewed in light of the current processes in Soviet republics, primarily in the Ukraine, and the Soviet-German Treaty.

Genscher praised the talks with Ukrainian parliamentary leader Leonid Kravchuk and republican Vice Prime Minister Konstantin Masik.

He expressed satisfaction with Kravchuk's position calling for single nuclear arms control in the country and the decision to destroy nuclear missiles in the republic.

He said Germany proposes an agreement to further reduce both countries's nuclear arsenals.

Genscher said German-Ukrainian relations have a great future.

The Ukrainian Government gave a breakfast in honour of the German foreign minister on Friday. Genscher held a reception.

Opens German Culture Week in Kiev

LD1810180491 Berlin ADN in German 1251 GMT
18 Oct 91

[Text] Kiev (ADN)—In the view of Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany and the Ukraine have new opportunities ahead of them in their relations. As Genscher stressed in Kiev today at the opening of a week of German culture in the Ukraine, what is new in the current encounter between both peoples is above all that at this time a centuries-old dream of the Ukrainian people is simultaneously becoming reality. The profound changes in the Soviet Union, which had been so hard won, would also bring the Ukraine the opportunity of determining its own path. "In this we do not forget that twice this century German troops have marched into the Ukraine," the minister said. "It is of particular significance that this first, intensified reencounter is taking place in the field of culture."

The foreign minister noted that the one Europe of good neighborliness, partnership and cooperation is making progress. At the same time he warned against the dangers to stability and progress still existing in some parts of the continent, and spoke of joint responsibility by all European nations for efforts to secure the present and provide for the future.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher recalled the chequered and centuries-old history of contacts between the German and the Ukrainian peoples and assessed the week of German culture as an important building block for the future of relations between the two countries. It could become the

starting point for a permanent cultural presence in the Ukraine and should be supplemented by a Ukrainian equivalent in Germany, so cultural exchange could become effective as a bridge between the nations. Kiev will also become the location of a modern German training center, the minister announced. Its task is to prepare members of the military returning from the former GDR for their professional life.

Before the opening, the German foreign minister was honored with the Skovoroda Prize. The prize, named after the 18th century philosopher and poet, Hryhoriy Skovoroda, is conferred by the political innovation center in Kiev.

The week of German culture, which will take place in Kiev, Charkov, Odessa and Lvov, will start with a concert by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Sergiu Celibidache. It will offer classical and modern art and comprises offerings from the fields of music, dance, fashion and film, as well as exhibitions, literature, science and sports.

Representatives View Economic Treaty

LD1910205291 Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The leaders of eight republics signed an agreement on economic cooperation among the sovereign republics in the Kremlin yesterday. [passage omitted]

Ivan Plyushch, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet made a speech on behalf of Ukraine's representatives who were present at the signing ceremony. Here is part of his speech.

[Begin Plyushch recording] Esteemed comrades, today I represent the Ukraine, along with Ukrainian First Vice Prime Minister Kostyantyn Ivanovych Masyk, with the sole purpose of preventing the opinion that the Ukraine has slammed the door and does not want to examine this treaty on economic community, from taking shape. By no means do we have this as our aim. We have been working very closely on this draft and we have submitted, as it was already stressed today, very many remarks and propositions, and there was one particular opinion. What is this particular opinion? We think that such an economic community is extremely necessary. However, it should be concluded after we have concluded bilateral treaty relations with Russia and with all other republics and states which were part of the USSR. This work has started. A treaty has been signed today with Uzbekistan. Six draft treaties are emerging; as Boris Nikolayevich has just said, of 200 positions we have only three positions left with Belorussia, Kazakhstan, and a number of other republics. Therefore we are firmly convinced that we will be a member of the economic community and we will indeed join and sign after we have examined these separate agreements and bilateral treaties which the states have signed today. We are sure we will sign this treaty in the future. [end recording]

On the occasion of signing the economic community agreement a news conference took place in Moscow at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers permanent mission for economic and cultural contacts. It was held by Ivan Stepanovych Plyushch, first deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, and Kostyantyn Ivanovych Masyk, first vice premier of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. Our special correspondent Oleksiy Berezenko attended this news conference yesterday and today he is in our studio. [passage omitted]

[Berezenko] The news conference started with a statement in which the position of the Ukrainian leadership was expressed in connection with signing the economic community treaty by eight states as well as the fact that the Ukraine is not taking part in this act. [passage omitted] The following example was given at the news conference: it is proposed in this treaty again to create a centralized fund of foodstuffs. Again they are going to gather all foodstuffs from the republics in Moscow and apportion them from a single centre again. Therefore, some chief will give foodstuffs according to his desire and will to whoever he wants. [passage omitted] As you see, all the remarks which came from our republic are principled in nature and therefore the attempts to accuse the Ukraine today of some national egoism and even separatism and of exorbitant political ambitions, you have to agree, are arguments from the old dictionary, although they were used yesterday. In the conversation with our republic's representatives threats against the Ukraine could be heard again and the same kind of pressure and arm-twisting was applied. [passage omitted]

Joining Economic Pact Assessed

LD1910100791 Moscow TASS in English 0946 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow October 19 TASS—The Ukraine was a conspicuous absence among the signatories of an economic commonwealth treaty in the Kremlin on October 18. But several Ukrainian leaders were quoted in a newspaper today as saying that their republic would still accede to the pact.

Speaking in interviews with IZVESTIYA, they said it would do so after signing bilateral agreements with other republics and getting its criticisms of some treaty clauses dealt with.

Ukrainian Deputy Parliament Speaker Vladimir Grinev, for instance, said: "The economic community treaty is an accord badly needed by all republics. The Ukraine should join the economic commonwealth based on the former Union."

Ukrainian Energy and Power Development Minister Vitaliy Sklyarov said, for his part, that the Ukraine's signing of the pact was a matter of time. "The power industry needs gas, boiler oil and coal continuously, especially as winter is just around the corner. It is

possible to supply all republics with fuel only after they agree among themselves," he said.

Positions Detailed

PM2110103191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Oct 91 Union Edition p 1

[Correspondent S. Tsikora report under the general heading "Economic Community Formed 18 October Anyway, But Without Ukraine, Baltic Region, and Georgia... History Will Show Whether This Day Becomes Historic": "Kiev"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium deemed it impossible to sign the Treaty on the Economic Community 18 October.

Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Chairman Leonid Kravchuk explained the republic's position and the reason for the refusal in a speech to the trade union aktiv 17 October.

"The signing of this most important document is scheduled for tomorrow, but we have still not seen its final wording," the head of parliament said. "Therefore the Supreme Soviet Presidium was entirely justified in deciding that to sign this document blind would be extremely imprudent on our part. We foresee accusations of arrogance and other imaginary sins against the Ukraine, but we will stick to our guns: Until we are given all documents pertaining to the proposed treaty and until they have been studied by experts and officials, we will not be able to participate in the signing of this document."

Republic newspapers are reporting certain details of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium session at which this decision was made. Under the rubric "Sensation," the newspaper KOZA (formerly KOMSOMOLSKAYA ZNAMYA) printed a comment by V. Grinev, deputy chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet, who stated: "For the time being the Ukraine is refusing to sign the document, because in many respects we are not happy with it."

GOLOS UKRAYINI [Voice of the Ukraine], the republic Supreme Soviet's official organ, quoted words from a speech by K. Masik, first vice premier of the Cabinet of Ministers, at the presidium session.

"In Alma-Ata 12 republics unanimously accepted the Ukraine's position," he said. "Its main condition for signing the Treaty on the Economic Community is that the republics intending to sign this treaty first conclude bilateral agreements between themselves. But over a period of time this understanding has been disregarded by M. Gorbachev, B. Yeltsin, and I. Silayev. They all favor the immediate signing of the Treaty on the Economic Community, which still looks more like a political than an economic document."

Saying later that the documents accompanying the treaty are "not ready and have not been finalized," Masik draws the following conclusion: By signing the treaty the republic will be drawn into a big game in which it might

find itself dependent on the diktat of the center and Russia. The newspaper article is actually headlined "Ukraine Being Drawn Into Big Game." This indicates both the position and the attitude to it.

Masyk Welcomes Treaty

LD1810214491 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] A news conference was held at the permanent mission of the Ukraine in Moscow today. It was devoted to the Ukraine's position in connection with the signing of the treaty on an economic community. Kostyantyn Masyk, first vice prime minister of the Ukraine, welcomes the signing of the treaty by eight republics. He regards this step as a creative one. Ukrainian representatives have been involved actively at all stages of the treaty's preparation. However, a number of provisions in the final version are at variance with the laws of the Ukraine.

Kostyantyn Masyk also stated that, in the near future, following the preparation and signing of specific agreements in various spheres, the Ukraine will participate in economic cooperation with other sovereign republics.

Grinev Favors Treaty

LD1910213891 Moscow Central Television First
Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The economic community treaty is a document urgently needed by all the republics; the Ukraine should join the economic community on the basis of the former Union, Vladimir Grinev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine, has said.

Fokin Seeks To Retain Nuclear Arms

LD2010144791 Moscow TASS in English 1359 GMT
20 Oct 91

[By correspondent Vadim Chistov]

[Text] Brasilia October 20 TASS—"I was upset to learn that the republican parliament declined to sign a treaty on an economic union of sovereign states. I think the Ukraine had no particular reason for that," Prime Minister Vitold Fokin of the Ukraine told a news conference in Rio de Janeiro. Fokin is leading a republican government delegation who are currently in Brazil on an official visit.

"I think we shall sign this treaty, for no one can achieve well-being in isolation. The Ukraine's isolation may become a tragedy," he said.

Some provisions of the treaty should be adjusted to win the consent of all republics that want to participate in the economic union, Fokin said.

At the same time he believes that at present the signing of the economic union treaty is not the main thing. In his view, it is more important to conclude bilateral agreements between former Union republics.

The Ukrainian premier also declared categorically against the removal of nuclear weapons from the republic's territory. His opinion is that, considering a threat of coups in the USSR, as a result of which control over nuclear arms may pass into the hands of irresponsible people, nuclear weapons should not be taken out of the Ukraine.

Having recalled that the Ukrainian parliament had decided to establish a nuclear-free zone on the republic's territory, Fokin remarked that "this is a matter of the future. Meanwhile it is essential to work out a common system of strategic security, which is one of the functions of the central government."

Defense Minister Views Armed Forces

LD2010214991 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent P. Savchak; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The visit of Ukrainian Defense Minister Major General of Aviation Konstantin Morozov to Lvov has started immediately after the personnel of one of the USSR Armed Forces military communication units—the first one in the Ukraine—decided to come under the jurisdiction of the republican government.

The Ukrainian defense minister stated that the Ukraine will soon have its own armed forces. The preparation of relevant documents is being completed at present. The experience of setting up military sub-divisions of the period of the Ukrainian People's Republic and the People's Republic of the Western Ukraine will be taken into account. The possibility of using the same uniform, badges of ranks, and rewards has not been ruled out. As for the language, there is no doubt that it should be the Ukrainian language. This process should proceed gradually, based on voluntary principles.

Chernobyl 'Possibly' To Be Closed in 1992

AU2110114091 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 21 Oct 91 p 1

[Joachim Wille report: "Chernobyl Faster Off Electric Network"]

[Text] Kiev, 20 Oct—The Ukrainian Government expects that the controversial Chernobyl nuclear power plant will not continue to be connected with the electric network until 1995, as was planned so far. This became clear over the weekend [19-20 October] during Bonn Environment Minister Klaus Toepfer's (Christian Democratic Union) talks with the energy minister and the minister for nuclear control in Kiev. Both partners to the talks, Vitaliy Sklarov and Nikolay Shteinberg, proceed on the assumption that at a session on the Chernobyl problem this week, the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine will clearly bring forward the closure date, possibly to 1992. The reason for this is that after the fire in the power house of the reactor on 12-13 October, the mood among the people and the parliamentarians has become even more critical of the nuclear reactor in which a super maximum credible accident took place in 1986 and three blocks of which remained connected with the electric network.

Toepfer, who had talks on radiation protection and reactor safety in Moscow and Kiev, expressed concern about a vacuum in the control of the nuclear power plant that has developed after the Soviet Union's disintegration and might result in new dangers. For example, he had an appointment at the central Nuclear Ministry in Moscow on 18 October, "but there is simply nobody there any longer." Therefore, contacts are now to be established with the nuclear ministries to be developed by the republics producing nuclear power, Russia, the Ukraine, and Lithuania. In November, a meeting with the responsible ministers of these countries is planned.

The virtually unsolved issue of the disposal of discarded nuclear fuel rods turned out to be another major problem. They are currently stored in storage basins near the nuclear power plants because of a lack of final storage or processing possibilities. According to Shteinberg, in Chernobyl, for example, the huge amount of 17,000 tonnes of fuel elements is at issue.

Georgia

TV Reports on South Ossetia 'Complete Lies'

AU1810132491 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network
in Georgian 1112 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] The situation in Samachablo [South Ossetia]: For the last three days, central TV has been transmitting information claiming that rockets have been continuously fired from Georgian villages at the town of Tskhinvali. In connection with this, the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs Press Center contacted militia Lieutenant-Colonel (Lavrenti Davlianidze), acting commander of Tskhinvali, and asked him to comment on the information that has been transmitted by central TV. He stated: The information broadcast by central TV according to which the town of Tskhinvali has recently been subjected to continuous attacks by Georgian militants and rocket fire from Georgian villages are complete lies and yet another piece of disinformation. In reality, the opposite is taking place.

As we informed you earlier, Ossetian attacks on the Georgian population have increased recently. For example, yesterday evening, on 17 October, at 2215 when the "Vremya" program was broadcasting its latest lies, Ossetian extremists attacked the village of [name indistinct] and at 0200 the village of [name indistinct]. The Georgian population naturally returned the attackers' gunfire. Fortunately, there were no casualties. In Tskhinvali and its neighboring territory, [words indistinct] still many armed bands [words indistinct], during the last four months, in the town of Tskhinvali alone, Internal Ministry units that cannot be considered by central TV as supporting the Georgians have arrested three armed groups of Ossetian extremists and confiscated a large quantity of weapons.

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs Press Center.

'Alarming' Situation Updated

LD2010105291 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 0829 GMT 20 Oct 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 20 Oct (TASS)—Alarming reports are coming in from South Ossetia. Shots rang out again last night in the neighborhood of Tskhinvali and on the territory of Znaurskiy Rayon. Residential areas in the rayon center were fired on by heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft weapons from the direction of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, Eredvi, and Mevrikisi, where the state of emergency does not apply. Apartment blocks and public buildings in the southern and northern parts of town were heavily damaged. Seven people were admitted to an oblast hospital with shrapnel wounds. The Ossetian side shot back in order to neutralize the sources of the fire.

According to the press center of the South Ossetia information committee, the Znaurskiy Rayon center has also been fired on. All the houses in the settlement have been effectively destroyed and office buildings, communications installations, and public health buildings have been heavily damaged. There are no power, water, or food supplies nor telephone communications. Armed attacks by militants have resulted in two deaths and 18 persons injured over the last 24 hours here.

According to Alan Chochiyev, chairman of the "People's Council" [Adamon Nykhas], the people's front of South Ossetia, the situation in remote Ossetian villages is particularly complicated. After dark, militants are firing at civilian homes, taking hostages, stealing vehicles and foodstuffs, and rustling cattle. There has been no further information on 35 people of Ossetian nationality who were driven away from Znaurskiy Rayon.

Additional detachments of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs troops have arrived to help stabilize the situation in Tskhinvali. With their help it has proved possible to regulate the movement of vehicles carrying humanitarian aid on the main road between Dzhava and Tskhinvali. All the surrounding roads, however, by which foodstuffs, fuel, and medicines arrive from Vladikavkaz, are under the control of militants.

The population of the autonomous oblast continues to demand that the leadership of the country immediately declare a state of emergency throughout the entire territory of South Ossetia. As has become known, a session of the Supreme Soviet of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic will continue its work on 22 October and will consider the critical situation on the territory of South Ossetia. The session will also consider an appeal by South Ossetian people's deputies to introduce at the Russian Parliament the questions of the entry of the autonomous oblast into the Russian Federation and the unification of North and South Ossetia.

'Artillery Cannonade' Continues

LD1810201591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1443 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Excerpts] Vladikavkaz, 18 Oct (TASS)—The missile and artillery cannonade continues ceaselessly in the most crisis-ridden points of South Ossetia, namely Tskhinvali's suburbs and Znauri Rayon.

Over the past 24 hours, once again there has been intensive fire from heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, anti-aircraft weapons, and Alazani hail dispersal systems from the Georgian villages of Nikosi, Tamarasheni, Mevrikisi, and Eredvi. Guerrillas fired upon housing units, public buildings, and the administrative center's vital systems. Preliminary data indicates that 20 people have been taken to the oblast hospital with bullet wounds.

The Ossetian side also returned fire to neutralize the fire positions in the Georgian villages. The South Ossetian information committee press center reports that the Znauri Rayon center is almost deserted. Fearing exchanges of missile fire, residents are leaving their homes.

Additional subunits of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry's Internal Troops and armored vehicles arrived in South Ossetia today on USSR Internal Affairs Ministry instructions to stabilize the situation in the autonomous oblast. The Ossetian side demands persistently that the country's leadership immediately introduce a state of emergency on the entire territory of the autonomous oblast and arrange the evacuation of children, women, old people, and the injured.

Participants in the first international conference on Ossetian studies, which is taking place in Vladikavkaz, arrived in South Ossetia. They met residents of Ossetian villages and numerous refugees. [passage omitted]

In all, since the beginning of the confrontation in South Ossetia, over 250 Ossetians have perished, 480 have been injured, and 112 civilians are missing.

Abkhazian Election Results Outlined

AU2110102091 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA
in Russian 10 October 91 p 1

[Report by correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya on elections in Abkhazia: "The Summing Up"]

[Text] The Central Electoral Commission for the Elections of Deputies to the Supreme Council of the Abkhazian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [ASSR], in accordance with Article 50 of the Law on Elections, has summed up the results of the elections of deputies to the Supreme Council of the Abkhazian ASSR that took place on 29 September 1991.

Based upon the protocols of district electoral commissions that were received by the Central Electoral Commission, 38 deputies elected to the parliament of Abkhazia were registered.

In 14 electoral districts, where not a single candidate received the necessary majority of votes, additional voting will be held. It will take place on 13 October 1991.

In 12 electoral districts, the elections were considered as not having taken place, because less than one-half of the electors reported to the polling stations. In these districts, new elections will be held with a new procedure for nominating and registering candidates and with a new election campaign. These elections were set for 1 December 1991.

No election results have so far been published for district 176 of the town of Gagra, where an additional examination with the participation of the Central Electoral Commission is being conducted.

Supreme Council Proclaims Democratic Principles

AU2110104391 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA
in Russian 10 October 91 p 1

["Declaration" by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia, issued in Tbilisi on 8 October 1991]

[Text] One year ago, the population of Georgia democratically elected the country's legislative organ—the Supreme Council. Over the short period of its activity, the republic's parliament has had to work under the conditions of continuous confrontation and crisis. The blockade brought about by the center's secret plotting, the natural calamities, the collapse of the former socioeconomic structures, and the related numerous problems and individual mistakes have systematically disrupted the normal course of life. All of this has now acquired a very grave aspect. Having duly assessed the complex sociopolitical situation that has taken shape in Georgia and realizing its great responsibility before the people and history, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia, invested with the confidence of the country's population and expressing its will, declares the following:

1. It will fully implement its powers for ensuring comprehensive protection of human rights and freedoms. From this point of view, the institution of freedom of expression and of the press is an important step.
2. It will guarantee the development of free entrepreneurship and consolidation of private ownership.
3. It will speed up the implementation of agrarian reform and the process of privatization of material assets; this, in turn, will form a foundation for the establishment of a free way of life. The Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia will exercise constant care for the establishment of civic peace and for the relaxation of tension that has taken shape, and will, in this matter, give preference to the form of political dialogue. By virtue of this, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia will always be ready to give broad scope for the expression of the opinion of the opposition and will adopt particular decisions based on the comparison of different points of view.
4. Giving support to the president of the Republic, it will, together with him, strictly observe the Constitution of the Republic of Georgia, its current legislation, and their supremacy.

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia, recognizing the rights of the groupings that are united in its ranks on a factional basis, declares that its attitude toward the opinion of the minority is that of understanding and that it will not tolerate infringement upon the principles of democracy.

The Supreme Council believes that the process of restoration of Georgian state independence must be based upon a general democratization of life in the country.

In order to achieve this goal, it is necessary to establish national accord and to restore civic peace; the parliament calls upon the entire population of the republic to work toward the achievement of this goal.

Armenian Freight Impounding Denied

LD1910191491 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1725 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 19 Oct (TASS)—The Georgian Council of Ministers has denied rumors that it will keep a proportion of freight bound for Armenia via Georgian territory within the republic, or levy one-quarter of its total value. Such rumors have been causing public apprehension in Armenia, especially among the republic's business community.

Today's newspapers in Yerevan carried a statement by a senior official of the Georgian government that the Georgian Council of Ministers has made no such decision. "It is sheer provocation, invented by people who have set out to sow discord between the Armenian and Georgian peoples, between Armenia and Georgia, soon after the signing of a treaty between the two states," the statement stresses.

Armenia

Official Gives Preliminary Election Results

NC1810160091 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network
in Armenian 1400 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Interview with Khachatur Bezikyan, a member of the Armenian Central Electoral Commission, by Rita Gazaryan; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gazaryan] Mr. Bezikyan, various press agencies quoting unofficial sources are reporting that 72 percent of the eligible voters in our republic took part in the presidential elections and 83 percent of them voted for Supreme Soviet Chairman Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

[Bezikyan] We have already received the results from all 66 regional and city electoral commissions. The figures we have at present are in fact close to the ones you mentioned. To be more specific, 70.42 percent of the eligible voters took part in the election. Levon Ter-Petrosyan received 83.026 percent of the votes cast; that constitutes 58.47 percent of the entire electorate.

Let me say that these are not final figures and there could be slight corrections to them. [words indistinct] we have to examine them first. Though the figures will be very close to (the ones mentioned above).

[Gazaryan] What about the other candidates?

[Bezikyan] Regarding the other candidates: Paruyr Ayrikyan comes second with 7.209 percent of votes cast; that constitutes 5.077 percent of the entire electorate.

Next comes Sos Sargsyan with 4.331 percent of the votes cast; that constitutes 3.050 percent of the entire electorate. Zori Balayan received 0.458 percent of the votes cast, Rafayel Gazaryan 0.391 percent of the votes cast, and finally Ashot Navasardyan 0.163 percent of votes cast.

[Gazaryan] What is the Central Electoral Commission doing now?

[Bezikyan] Today it is (examining) the objections raised to the election procedure. Let me add that there are very few objections and they are intangible. It seems that the Central Electoral Commission will meet this evening and these objections will be examined and it is possible that final election results will be confirmed.

[Gazaryan] When would you publish the results as our people are impatient to know the final results?

[Bezikyan] Maybe tomorrow, but it is hard to give a final date yet. We will do everything we can to publish them as soon as possible.

Results Summarized

OW1810213091 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2028 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [18 October], Armenia's Central Electoral Commission summed up the results of the presidential elections held on October 16. Chairman of the Commission Robert Amiryany said on national TV that the votes had been cast for 46-year-old Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who had been Chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet. Gagik Arutyunyan was elected Vice-President.

Slightly over 70 per cent of the electors turned up at the polling stations. Eighty three per cent of the electors cast their votes for Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The leader of the national Self-Determination Association, Paruyr Airikyan, scored slightly over 7 per cent of the votes and well-known actor Sos Sarkisyan - a little over 4 per cent.

Ter-Petrosyan Wins Election

LD1810223591 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2057 GMT 18 Oct 91

[By correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 18 Oct (TASS)—Levon Ter-Petrosyan (46) has been elected the first president of the Republic of Armenia. This was confirmed this evening by Armenia's central electoral commission, which approved at its sitting the results of Wednesday's [16 October] elections for the republic's top official. A total of 1.26 million participants in the elections, or 83 percent of the republic's citizens who participated in the voting, cast their votes for the Armenian Supreme Soviet chairman, while 209,000 votes were cast against him. Gagik Arutyunyan

(43), deputy chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, has become the republic's vice president.

In accordance with the law, the Armenian president is scheduled to take up his post at the beginning of December.

Presidential Credo Outlined

PM2110082991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Oct 91 Union Edition p 2

[Correspondent S. Bablunyan report: "L. Ter-Petrosyan: Armenia Wants to Be a European-Type Independent State"]

[Text] Yerevan—On the morning of 17 October, right after his election, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan flew to Moscow at the invitation of Mikhail Gorbachev, leaving all interviews and the receipt of congratulations until later. Nevertheless, Levon Ter-Petrosyan's preelection speech and other speeches make it possible to picture his political program and the path which he intends to travel as president of the republic.

And so, how does the president see Armenia's future? "We want to be a European-type independent state, to obtain recognition as a subject of international law, and, at the same time, to establish harmonious relations with all our neighbors. For us it would be ideal to see the USSR as a community of states like the EC."

And these are not just words but already action. At the beginning of October Levon Ter-Petrosyan sent letters to the chairman and secretary general of the Council of Europe, asking to be admitted to the council.

The president believes that Armenia has chosen the most optimum [as published] path. Namely, a constitutional path of acquiring independence, which has enabled it to guard against bloodshed and inevitable losses [as published]. Fearing the consequences of the rapid disintegration of the USSR, beneath whose debris entire peoples might end up, he prefers measures that can impart to these processes a nature of governability and sensible restraint. Levon Ter-Petrosyan believes, however, that it must, rather be a question of not so much destructive as creative processes. And therefore the president considers it expedient for Armenia to participate fully in all interrepublic structures.

Answering a question about guarantees of Armenia's political independence against a possible threat from the so-called center, the head of the republic concluded perfectly logically: "If we are ever convinced that our state independence is under attack, we have the right to reconsider or correct our position. This is why," the president emphasized, "we must as soon as possible become a subject of international law and a UN member and participate in this capacity in the shaping of a new interstate community."

In his speeches Levon Ter-Petrosyan persistently emphasizes pledges to order his policy within the framework of

documents adopted by the United Nations and to be guided in all circumstances by the principles of creating a rule-of-law state and defending freedoms and human rights.

The president believes that Armenia has every opportunity to demonstrate to the world how it is possible, on the one hand, to become a really independent state and, on the other, to participate in the processes now taking place in the country, channeling them toward the creation of a civilized approach and predictability.

It cannot be said that everyone in Armenia shares the political course proclaimed by the president. The opposition, where many former colleagues of the republic's leader have ended up, is accusing him increasingly harshly of tractability toward Moscow, of flirting with Turkey, and of frequently changing his reference points. The current complaints include a lack of an effective program capable of dragging the republic out of the quagmire of the economic crisis, as well as accusations of having abandoned the ideals of the Karabakh movement, which brought him to the pinnacle of presidential power.

But, be that as it may, the voting results, albeit preliminary results, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan's impressive lead over the other aspirants attest to one thing—he is the universally recognized leader in Armenia today.

Council Chairman on Economic Treaty

LD1910121691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The economic community treaty signed in the Kremlin on 18 October has become a version of the republics' cooperation in the economic field, and it creates good conditions for us. This is the opinion of Grant Bagratyav, acting chairman of Armenia's council of ministers.

Speaking on republican television last night he stated that the treaty does not at all encroach upon Armenia's independence, on the contrary, it creates a sufficient basis for making headway as regards the issue of political independence of the republic. He emphasized that the signatures under the document are the recognition of it.

The head of Armenian Government also stressed the fact that the republic is interested in the recently signed inter-republican agreement on mutual supplies of foodstuffs and the supplies of material and technical resources for the agrarian complex for the end of this year and for the first half of next year, as well as on the order of acquiring imported foodstuffs in 1992. This document is even more significant due to the fact that Armenia imports approximately 60 to 65 percent of its foodstuffs, including over 70 percent of bread and two-thirds of its dairy products.

At the same time Grant Bagratyan expressed his apprehension regarding the possibilities of the implementation of the signed treaty next year. Its practical implementation cannot be beneficial for large republics which in the process of economic cooperation try or will try to set up some sort of a new center or to receive political dividends, he said.

Bagratyan Supports Economic Treaty

LD1910214791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] Bagratyan, acting chairman of Armenia's Council of Ministers, considers that the union treaty on the economic community, signed in the Kremlin, is an economic version of the cooperation of the republics. He said the new treaty in no way infringes Armenia's independence: On the contrary, it creates an adequate base for progress on the issue of political independence for the republic.

Delegation Leaves For Talks In Azerbaijan

LD1910214391 Moscow TASS in English 1956 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan October 19 TASS— A working group, led by First Deputy Chairman of the Armenian Parliament Babken Ararktsyan, left today for the area bordering on the Kazakh region of Azerbaijan. On the instruction of the Presidium of the republican parliament, it will discuss with the Azerbaijani side the issues dealing with the preparation of the first meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives for working out the order and the agenda of bilateral talks, due to be held in accordance with the agreements reached in Zheleznovodsk.

Azerbaijan

Deputies Reject Economic Treaty Signing

LD1810200191 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Report by Baku correspondent (Annahana) Abdullayeva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Abdullayeva] Azerbaijan will not sign the Union economic agreement, the republican parliament decided today. The deputies believe that this document completely contradicts Azerbaijan's economic and political sovereignty.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Z. Mamedov] We voted against the economic community.

[Abdullayeva] Was that the right thing to do?

[Mamedov] Certainly. Economic relations must be maintained with all republics and all states, but we do not intend to join any Union, any new Union called economic, one which may later be called a military union and other names. [end recording]

[Abdullayeva] Azerbaijan, like certain other republics, has decided to try and extricate itself from the economic abyss by going its own way. The parliament today also adopted a constitutional enactment on Azerbaijan's sovereignty.

Reasons Cited

OW1810205091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Azerbaijan decided today that the republic would not sign the Treaty on Economic Cooperation. 174 Deputies voted against signing the treaty, while only 35 Deputies voted "for" it. 24 abstained from voting, and 7 deputies did not take part in the vote.

The deputies also spoke out against giving a draft of the treaty to a constant parliamentary commission for further study.

Some deputies emphasized that the Union as such has already ceased to exist. In their opinion, a treaty on economic cooperation could only be signed between truly independent governments having their own currencies, banks and customs services.

The deputies spoke in favor of dual horizontal economic agreements made on a mutually profitable basis.

In the deputies' opinion, such an economic treaty does not require the presence of central organizations. The deputies feel that this is just another attempt of the Russians to save the empire.

Mutalibov Orders Federal Offices Closed

AU1910180991 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, Oct 19 (AFP) - Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov has ordered all federal Soviet government offices in his republic to be shut down following his republic's declaration of independence, the Russian news agency RIA said Saturday [19 October].

On Friday [18 October] the parliament in Baku unanimously passed legislation restoring the 1918 independence of the southern republic.

In a decree, Mutalibov ordered federal "executive committees" in towns, regions and districts to cease all activities as soon as organs being set up to replace them were formed, RIA said.

Soviets or councils of local deputies however would remain in office until the formation of "corresponding structures," according to the decree.

Local Executives Instituted

LD1910215591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The Azerbaijan Assa-Irada news agency reports that Azerbaijan President Ayaz Muttalibov has issued a decree instituting the post of chief executive in villages, rayons and towns in the republic. Executive committees of rural, rayon, and town soviets will lapse from the time local chief executives are appointed.

Administrative Reform Begins

OW1910183091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Ayaz Muttalibov of Azerbaijan has issued a decree establishing the post of head of executive power in district and city administrations. The local executive committees must cease operating as of the moment the presidential envoys are inaugurated. In large cities the Soviet of People's Deputies must cease operating too.

Law Restoring Independence

OW1810212591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2028 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On October 18, after a thorough discussion, the parliament of Azerbaijan unanimously adopted the draft law "On the Restoration of State Independence of the Azerbaijan Republic".

According to this act, Azerbaijan is considered to be the legitimate successor of the Azerbaijanian Democratic Republic (ADR) which existed from May 1918 till April 1920.

The preamble of this law says that on April 27, 1920, the ADR's government was overthrown as a result of the Red Army's invasion.

According to this document, Azerbaijan considers all acts and treaties concluded by the republic since April 1920 to be invalid.

Aliyev Appointed Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman

LD1810125191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] Geydar Aliyev has been given the post of deputy chairman of Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet following the

repeal by the republican Supreme Soviet of a constitutional amendment adopted earlier which deprived the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis Chairman of this post. This was reported by the TURAN agency.

Supreme Soviet Deputies To Be Observers

LD1910164591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Baku: Any representatives the Republic of Azerbaijan sends to the USSR Supreme Soviet session, which opens 21 October in Moscow, will only be observers. This decision was reached today by the deputies of the republican parliament after a lengthy discussion.

Parliament Demands Trial of Political Analyst

OW1910183491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [19 October], the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet sent protest messages to the Russian and Kazakh presidents, the USSR Procurator-General and the editor of the daily IZVESTIA and demanded that legal charges be brought against the political analyst Andrey Nuikin whose article KARABAKHI DIARY had been published in IZVESTIA recently. The Azerbaijani parliament accused Mr. Nuikin of "flagrantly violating" Paragraph 6 of the Communiqué on Nagorno-Karabakh signed by the leaders of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Kazakhstan, Armenia and Azerbaijan in Zheleznovodsk on September 23.

Nuikin's article charged Azerbaijani authorities with genocide against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

No Permission for USSR Troop Exit

LD1910231191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The government of Azerbaijan is trying to have units and armaments of the Soviet army situated on the territory of the republic transferred to its control. According to a report in the KURANTY newspaper, in connection with this, the Ministry of Defense gave instructions that these armaments should be withdrawn from Azerbaijan. But unexpected obstacles have arisen. The authorities of the republic have stated that they will not give permission for the movement of troop convoys.

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Muttalibov Declines To Meet With Gorbachev

LD1710135491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Azerbaijan President Ayaz Muttalibov will not come to Moscow today to a discussion organized by

Mikhail Gorbachev on the interethnic conflict. According to a report from the AZ-IRAN agency, the president's press service, the refusal to attend the meeting is the result of the fact that the situation in the republic is extremely uneasy. There is a parliamentary crisis, and observers from Russia and Kazakhstan have only just started working in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In addition, Mr. Mutalibov also believes that, throughout the four years of the conflict, the country's president has not only failed to resolve the problem with his resolutions and decrees, but has, moreover, made the situation in the region more serious.

Gorbachev Talks Postponed

LD1710202591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] As you know, the meeting planned for today between Mikhail Gorbachev and Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Ayaz Mutalibov, the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, on the question of regulating the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] is not to take place.

Karen Kargizyan, representative of the USSR president's press service, told INTERFAX that it was difficult for him to answer the question about a possible date for the meeting. However, he noted that it has not been ruled out of the president's plans. At the same time Valiv Rustamov, deputy press assistant to the president of Azerbaijan, told INTERFAX that Mutalibov considers such a meeting superfluous since the range of questions which will be discussed has not been defined. According to Rustamov, if the meeting is devoted to the NKAO question, then Azerbaijan considers this to be its internal problem and does not intend to discuss with it with the Armenian leader or the USSR president. If it is a matter of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia then this is a topic for separate discussion.

Gorbachev Meeting 'Superfluous'

OW1710213291 Moscow INTERFAX in English
2000 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Spokesman of the USSR president's press service, Karen Karaghezyan, has informed INTERFAX that Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting on Nagorno-Karabakh with the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders—Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Ayaz Mutalibov—will not be held on Thursday [17 October] as appointed. He found it hard to give a possible date, but said it was still on the president's schedule.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani president's press aide Vagif Rustamov has told INTERFAX that "his president finds the meeting superfluous since its agenda has not been specified."

According to V. Rustamov, "If the meeting is to be devoted to Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan considers this its internal problem not to be discussed either with the leader of Armenia or with the USSR president. If it concerns relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, that's another matter."

Delegations Hold First Talks

LD1910225191 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 2000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[By correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 19 Oct (TASS)—The first meeting of the plenipotentiary working groups from Armenia and Azerbaijan within the framework of the Zheleznovodsk agreements, in which observers from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan took part, was held near the Azerbaijan town of Kazakh today.

So far nothing has been announced with regard to the details of the meeting. According to the press center of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, it is intended to discuss issues connected with the preparation for the forthcoming talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan which were outlined in the Zheleznovodsk communique. The Armenian television has just broadcast a report on the beginning of the meeting in Kazakh.

The importance of the meeting was stressed by Zulfiyar Gadzhiyev, first deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan, when he opened it. We should decide, he said, what to do to ensure that there are no more bloodshed, no blockades or hostages, all communications work normally and all our territories are cleared of militants.

In welcoming those attending the meeting, Armenian Supreme Soviet First Deputy Chairman Babken Araktsyan noted that the Zheleznovodsk communique laid the foundation for resolving the most acute, most difficult issues existing between the two republics. The head of the Armenian working group expressed gratitude to the envoys from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan for their difficult mediation mission in the Transcaucasus.

According to the Vladimir Podoprigora, head of the Russian Federation group of observers, both the Armenian and the Azerbaijani side aspire to sit down the negotiating table, which they have endorsed by their arrival at the present meeting. In an interview to Armenian television, Yerkin Aulyebekov, aide to the President of the Kazakh SSR and USSR People's Deputy, welcomed the arrival of the plenipotentiary representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan. He said that the group of observers from Kazakhstan which he is heading will use all efforts to promote the restoration of peace in the region.

Members 'Optimistic'

LD2010191391 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast]

[Text] The first working meeting between the delegations of Azerbaijan and Armenia has taken place under the mediation of observers from Russia and Kazakhstan.

[First unidentified correspondent] It took place in Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy rayon near the border of the two neighboring republics. The meeting is the continuation of the dialogue that was begun in Zheleznovodsk. They discussed here, first of all, the agenda and the standing orders of the future official meetings. The Armenian delegation is still to receive official powers for holding the talks from its parliament. These powers have already been conferred upon the Azerbaijan delegation. Although, by and large, the meeting was amicable and constructive, the sides did not manage to avoid disagreement when discussing a number of questions. Incidentally, that is easy to explain. After all, quite a few difficult problems have accumulated. The schedule for the next meeting has been set—in a week's time—and it will take place in Armenia.

[Second unidentified correspondent] Well, has this meeting already outlined some practical ways of implementing the communique?

[Z.S. Gadzhiyev, deputy Prime Minister of the Azerbaijan Republic, identified by caption] I think, of course, we outlined them. We are now drawing up a program namely to fulfill the points in the communique: That is a cease-fire on the territories where there is ... [changes thought] and between the borders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, the opening of transport communications throughout the republics, and the release of hostages held by both sides. I mean that all these questions will be examined at our future sittings and now we are examining precisely the program of what to examine in the future.

[Third unidentified correspondent] What is the most important thing for you at these meetings?

[B.G. Ararktsyan, first deputy chairman of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, identified by caption] In the first place, the very fact of the meeting. I think that this is such a major event in the development of our relations because this is the first time that such a meeting is taking place at such a level between representatives of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Republic of Armenia. Organizational questions are being decided today, questions of the

standing orders, but mutually acceptable decisions are being found rather quickly in deciding these questions. I am optimistic.

Next Round Scheduled

LD2010203391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The several hours of tense talks between the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan that took place in the town of Kazakh in Azerbaijan with the participation of observers from Russia and Kazakhstan have produced their first results, RIA reports. An agreement has been reached that official talks between plenipotentiary delegations from these republics will begin on 25 October in the town of Idzhevan in Armenia. The range of topics has also been defined for which working groups will be set up as early as next week. The leaders of the delegations, despite the continuing clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh, the tension on the Armenian-Azerbaijan border, and the sharp discussion at the meeting itself, evaluate the process of cooperation that has begun as optimistic.

The Russian and Kazakh observers came to such a conclusion, telling an RIA correspondent that the tasks set for today had been carried out. The talks which took place in Kazakh were among the first practical steps in the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan envisaged in the joint communique signed by the leaders of the two republics as well as by the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan on 23 September in Zheleznovodsk. The idea of mediation was presented by Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev in Alma-Ata even before the putsch.

Clashes Continue Despite Talks

LD2010220891 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] As we have already reported, following the Armenian-Azerbaijani talks in which representatives of Russia and Kazakhstan have taken part, an agreement has been reached in the town of Kazakh—a rayon center in Azerbaijan—to start official negotiations between the parties on 25 October.

At the same time we have just received a report from Azer Khalilov, a news service correspondent, quoting sources in the local militia that Armenian fighters have today been blockading one of the villages in this area. An attack upon it is expected at any time. There are troubles in other places, too. During the past 24 hours Armenian fighters have fired on the town of Shusha and a number of villages in Geranboyskiy rayon. I do not yet have any information from Armenian sources.

Kazakhstan

Supreme Soviet Meets, New Deputies Named

LD2010195391 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh

[Excerpts] Yesterday the sixth extraordinary session of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [KaSSR] Supreme Soviet took place in Alma-Ata. It was opened with a brief introduction by KaSSR Chairman Asanbayev. A session secretariat was elected. Then the agenda and the work procedure of the session were approved. [passage omitted]

At the proposal of Kazakh President Nazarbayev issues concerning the vice president, chairman of the KaSSR Supreme Soviet, and Kazakh prime minister were included on the agenda. After a thorough discussion Asanbayev was elected vice president of the KaSSR.

Karamanov was released from his duties as prime minister of the KaSSR in connection with his transfer to another job. Tereshchenko was confirmed as prime minister of the KaSSR, who had been working as chairman of Chimkent Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies.

Three candidates were proposed for the post of chairman of the KaSSR: Ukin, chairman of Turgay Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies, Abdildin, deputy chairman of the KaSSR Supreme Soviet, and Sartayev, corresponding member of the KaSSR Academy of Sciences. Abdildin had drawn his candidacy twice, but the deputies did not agree with his evidence. As a result Ukin and Abdildin were put into a secret ballot, in which not a single candidate gained the required number of votes. Therefore, Abdildin was charged with being acting chairman of the KaSSR Supreme Soviet until the next session.

A resolution on a draft law on electing a president of the KaSSR was adopted. On behalf of the Supreme Soviet Deputy Takezhanov proposed Nursultan Nazarbayev as a candidate for the KaSSR presidency, which was supported by parliament. [passage omitted]

KaSSR President Nursultan Abish-Ogly Nazarbayev spoke at the session. Taking part in the session were USSR people's deputies, members of the KaSSR Cabinet of Ministers, and representatives of the mass media. Thereupon, the sixth extraordinary session ended its work.

Draft Election Law Noted

LD2010101291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1919 GMT 16 Oct 91

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondents Tatiana Zhurbenk and Olga Babiy]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 16 Oct (KAZTAG-TASS)—Discussion of the draft republican law "on the elections of the president of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic

[SSR]" was the main point on the agenda of the extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh SSR that began today.

[Kazakh President] Nursultan Nazarbayev, who spoke at the session, stated that life itself dictates the need to hold the first nationwide presidential elections in Kazakhstan. The first individual in the republic should constantly feel the moral support of all the residents of Kazakhstan, their complete trust.

As a result the draft law was adopted in the first reading.

At the proposal of Nursultan Nazarbayev additional issues were included on the agenda: on the vice president, the prime minister and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan. Erik Asanbayev who formerly worked as chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet, has become the vice president, Sergey Tereshchenko, who before this occupied the post of the chairman of the Chimkent Oblast soviet, has been confirmed as prime minister. Not a single candidate gained the required number of votes to occupy the post of chairman of the parliament. Therefore, Serikbolsyn Abdildin, his deputy, has been charged with being acting head of parliament until the next session.

At the session the powers of the newly elected people's deputies of the Kazakh SSR were acknowledged, the membership of the republic's Supreme Soviet was formed, and some other issues relating to the life of the state were also resolved.

Further Documents Adopted

LD2010095191 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1444 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] We have just had a telephone call from the USSR Supreme Soviet. We will continue the parliamentary theme. This time we will hear about the extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] which is being held in Alma-Ata today. Here is Bikesh Baimbetov, Mayak's correspondent, with more details of its work and the documents it has adopted. Go ahead, please.

[Baimbetov] Thank you. The main reason the republican parliament's extraordinary session was convened was, I believe, to hold a debate on the draft law on election of the president of the Kazakh SSR. Why was it necessary to call a special session, scheduled to last only one day, to discuss this law? This was the question which I put to Kazakh Supreme Soviet Chairman Erik Magzumovich Asanbayev before the session started. Let's hear him first.

[Begin Asanbayev recording] The events of August showed that there was a pressing need for such a law. Up to then we had not considered the matter to be urgent. Furthermore, distrust of Union structures and the center has increased. The Republic is now winning real sovereignty and real independence. Because of this the

republic is enhancing its position, its position vis-a-vis external relations and the international community. [end recording]

[Baimbetov] I introduced Erik Magzumovich Asanbayev to you as chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Kazakh SSR. In fact, when I recorded the interview, that's what he was. I have now been informed by the press center of the Supreme Soviet—and the session is still continuing there—that he has now been elected vice president. This is the first time our republic has had a vice president.

The session was addressed by [Kazakhstan President] Nursultan Nazarbayev. He stated that the president could only pursue a resolute policy of democratic reform, creation of a rule-of-law state and introduction of a market economy if he had nationwide support.

The main tenets of the new law, which was adopted after lengthy discussion, are as follows: A candidate may be elected president if he is a citizen of the Kazakh SSR, no younger than 35 and no older than 65. He must have been permanently resident on the territory of Kazakhstan for at least 10 years and must know both Kazakh and Russian. The president may not be elected for more than two terms in a row.

Incidentally, the first nationwide elections will be held before the end of the year. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet is proposing that the election be held on 1 December. The session is also examining the question of delegating representatives of Kazakhstan to be members of the USSR Supreme Soviet and recognition of credentials of newly elected people's deputies of the Kazakh SSR.

Chairman Released From Duties

LD1910102991 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1600 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] By the decree of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet, Yerik Magzum-Ogly Asanbayev has been released from his duties as chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet in connection with his election as vice president of the Kazakh SSR.

By the decree of the president of the Kazakh SSR, Uzakbay Karamanov has been appointed as state councillor of the Kazakh SSR.

Republic, Chevron Oil Negotiations Continue

PM1810130991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 15 Oct 91

[From the "TV Inform" newscast: Report by D. Baimbetov, G. Shalabayev, K. Katayev, from Tengiz oilfield in Kazakhstan]

[Text] [Announcer] Negotiations between the Kazakh Government and the U.S. Chevron Company on signing an agreement on the exploitation of the Tengiz oil

deposit are drawing to a close. The deal has been described abroad as the project of the century. So what is its significance for us?

The contract in its original form was, if not tantamount to plunder, then certainly highly disadvantageous for us. On the other hand, the Republic of Kazakhstan is not in a position to develop the Tengiz deposit by itself. And so the Americans have offered their services. You will learn in the course of our Alma-Ata correspondent's reportage what terms the sides have agreed.

[Baimbetov] So this is the unique deposit. Even according to preliminary estimates—the scientific geological survey has not been completed yet—it ranks among the top five deposits in the world. It is probably no accident that it has been dubbed "Tengiz," which translated from the Kazakh means "sea."

The deposit's high seam pressure and great concentration of hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide make it very explosion-prone. And if you take into account that the deep location of the seam calls for the use of high-resistance pipes and modern drilling equipment, which have always been in short supply in our country, you can imagine the complexities which are besetting the development of the Tengiz deposit. Naturally, it was not only the need for effective foreign experience and leading technology which dictated collaboration with the foreign company. It was above all the need to attract foreign investments into our sick economy.

[S.M. Kamalov, first deputy chairman of the Committee for Geology and Protection of Kazakhstan's Mineral Resources] Judging by appearances, this is the only company seeking to set up a joint venture to exploit the deposit. However, perusal of the joint venture contract, plus an expert study of it, revealed that it was not entirely to the republic's advantage.

Because of this it was decided to set up a government commission, of which I am a member, and carry out another expert study.

Tajikistan

Socialist Party Publishes Draft Program

LD2010082291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1210 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Dushanbe, 16 Oct (TASS)—The draft program of the Socialist Party of Tajikistan—the legal successors to the party of Tajik Communists—has been widely circulated in the republican press for general discussion. The document has been prepared by the working commission of the organizational committee for holding the founding congress of this new political organization. The program emphasizes that the Socialist Party of Tajikistan [Sotsialisticheskaya Partiya Tajikistana] will guarantee the constitutional rights of citizens of the republic regardless of their nationality, will support ethnic and civil accord,

economic and political independence and the consolidation of all healthy forces within the republic.

In the political sphere, defining itself as a parliamentary party, it will guarantee that, during the battle for deputies' mandates at the elections to soviets of all levels, the leading positions in the constitutional bodies of state power in the republic will be filled using exclusive legal and democratic methods. In those bodies of authority where the Socialists remain a minority, they will occupy the position of a constructive opposition, opposing any attempts to encroach upon the interests of working people and the rights and freedoms of citizens resident in the republic.

In the economic sphere, the Socialist Party favors various forms of ownership and supports the idea of setting up free economic zones and free trade zones in the republic. It also supports the development of multilateral, equal relations with other sovereign republics within the framework of a new union of sovereign states.

Democratic Reform Movement Views Conflict

LD2010231491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1256 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Moscow, 19 Oct (TASS)—Today a sitting of the Democratic Reform Movement Political Council has taken place here. A TASS correspondent was informed at the movement's press center that a statement in connection with the achievement of civil accord in Tajikistan has been adopted.

The Democratic Reform Movement Political Council, it reads, has received with satisfaction a report that the drawn-out conflict in the Republic of Tajikistan has been suspended. The statement contains an appeal to the people of Tajikistan, political parties, and movements, the clergy, and all the forces of renewal of the republic to proceed along the path of democratic transformations.

The Democratic Reform Movement Political Council has sent a telegram to Armenian Supreme Soviet Chairman Levon Ter-Petrosyan congratulating him on his election to the post of president of the Republic, and expresses the hope that with the aid of mutually advantageous economic cooperation and energetic interaction with the democratic forces of other sovereign states, Armenia will enter the 21st century as a strong, prosperous power.

Turkmenia

Democratic Party To Hold Congress

OW1910021591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its constituent congress in Moscow on October 20, the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan [DPT] intends to adopt its program and rules. Co-head of the DPT organizing committee Durdymurad Khodja-Muhammed told IF [INTERFAX] that "the pro-communist totalitarian regime in Turkmenistan banned the holding of the congress in Ashkhabad." He said the city authorities had demanded a three-month notice and given no guarantees that the congress would be allowed. Mr. Khodja-Muhammed recalled that even a mourning rally in memory of the victims of the August coup had been dispersed and 32 of its participants had been arrested.

The constituent congress is expected to attract over 50 delegates representing democratic organizations in various parts of Turkmenistan.

Uzbekistan

Diplomatic, Economic Agreement With Azerbaijan

LD1910152691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Tashkent, 19 Oct [UZTAG-TASS]—A treaty on the principles governing interstate relations and an agreement on the principles of trade and economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan was signed in the Uzbek capital today.

The documents call for cooperation and interaction on matters relating to foreign and foreign economic activity, the formation and development of market relations, and a unified and free economic space. In the sphere of economic relations, the two republics are granting each other most-favored status.

President Islam Karimov said the signing of similar documents with Russia and Belarus is in the pipeline. A similar treaty with the Ukraine was signed yesterday in Moscow.